

OCPA E-Alert

April 2007



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Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- World Week For Animals in Labs Demo, UCLA – Monday, April 23rd 11:00 a.m., Los Angeles
- Meatout/Earth Day Vegan Lunch at Foothill High School, Tustin - Wednesday, April 25th at 12:00 p.m.
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, May 6th 1:00 p.m. at the Good Mood Food Café in Huntington Beach
- Health Faire – Saturday, May 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Stanton Park, City of Stanton
- *Behind the Mask* Screening – Saturday, May 26th 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Irvine
- 2007 ING Bay 2 Breakers 12K Fun Runners Centipede Race (VegNews) – Sunday, May 27th in San Francisco

Good News for the Animals!

This year continues to see more large companies end – or promise to end – abusive animal practices or the sale of animal products. This is testimony that no matter how long it takes, persistent action does (and will continue to) produce positive results for the animals. So keep making calls, writing letters, sending e-mails and signing petitions!

Wolfgang Puck Implements Animal Welfare Improvements

Wolfgang Puck, the L.A. chef recently announced he would use eggs and meat only from animals raised under strict humane standards. With this announcement, Mr. Puck joins a small group of top chefs around the country who refuse to serve foie gras, the fattened liver of ducks and geese. He has also directed his three companies (which fed more than 10 million people in 2006) to buy eggs only from chickens not confined to small cages, veal and pork from farms where animals are not confined in crates, and poultry from farmers using animal welfare standards higher than those put forth by the nation's largest chicken and turkey producers. Mr. Puck also vowed to use only seafood whose harvest does not endanger the environment or deplete stocks – and to include more vegetarian and organic options.

Burger King Improves Animal Welfare Policies

Burger King announced plans to improve its animal welfare policies and to begin addressing some of the worst abuses endured by farm animals. The company is taking action in the following areas: Battery cages for laying hens, gestation crates for breeding pigs, and slaughter methods for chickens. By the end of this year, Burger King plans to purchase 5% of its eggs from cage-free suppliers and 20% of its pork from producers who do not use crates. Hopefully, they'll continue to increase those percentages in the near future...

Cargill Stops Using Gestation Crates at Pig Factory Farms

Cargill, one of the world's largest pig-meat producers, recently stopped using gestation crates in 50% of its pig factory farms. PETA and other activists will continue to work with Cargill until the crates are phased out entirely.

New Mexico Bans Cockfighting

New Mexico recently became the 49th state to make cockfighting a criminal act. As the law goes into effect on July 1, 2007, Louisiana will be the only state in the country that still allows cockfighting.

Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act (HR 137 / S 261) Passes Both House and Senate and Awaits President's Signature

Both the House and Senate have now passed the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, HR 137 and S 261. The struggle to enact meaningful federal penalties for animal fighting has passed its final congressional hurdle. The legislation now heads to the desk of President Bush, who is expected to sign the measure into law – which will take effect immediately. Now federal law enforcement officials will have the tools needed to uproot the underground animal fighting enterprises and put a halt to the horrible cruelty inflicted upon dogs, birds and other animals in the name of this blood "sport."

Tommy Hilfiger Bans Fur

Tommy Hilfiger recently joined Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauder and Kenneth Cole in banning fur from its collections. We hope more clothing designers follow this compassionate and wise choice.

Last U.S. Horse Slaughtering Facility Closes

The last horse slaughtering facility closed its doors in Illinois last month after the U.S. District Court struck down a Department of Agriculture scheme designed to circumvent the legislation passed in 2005 to outlaw the slaughtering of horses for human consumption.

Alaska State Superior Court Rules Wolf Bounty Program Illegal

Unbelievable as it seems, Alaska's governor announced an awful expansion of the state's controversial wolf management programs with plans to pay a \$150 bounty for any wolf killed in specified management zones (provided that shooters turn in the dismembered legs of the wolves they kill). Thanks to Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of Animals and other activists, the State Superior Court Judge in Anchorage, Alaska, ruled that the wolf bounty program was illegal, and that the Department of Fish and Game did not have the legal authority to offer it. The fight to stop the persecution of wolves across the U.S. continues...

Duke University School of Medicine Stops Using Live Pigs

The Duke University School of Medicine recently confirmed that it has stopped using live pigs in its third-year surgery course. This means that only 13 medical schools (of 125) continue to use live animals in medical student courses. The remaining schools include: Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in NY, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in MD, University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in OH, and Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences School of Medicine in MD. Visit PCRM's [action alert page](#) to send an email to these schools asking them to cease this barbaric practice.

Go Vegan Possible Addition to Air America Radio Lineup

The Air America Radio network offered Go Vegan with Bob Linden a daytime weekend hour – an opportunity that would provide critical network exposure for issues of animal rights and liberation, food, complete vegetarianism, health, environment, social justice, peace, non-violence and energy solutions. The deadline to commit to Air America is May 7th and Bob Linden must raise \$200,000 by that date to make the lineup for the next year. Email MeatFreeAmerica@yahoo.com, call 818-623-6477, visit <http://www.GoVeganRadio.org> or mail a donation to Go Vegan Radio, P.O. Box 40246, San Diego, CA 92164, to help make this great opportunity happen for the animals, people and earth.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Stop Prairie Dog Poisoning

The National Forest Service is seeking input on a prairie dog management plan for the Thunder Basin National Grassland. The current management plan allows the extermination of prairie dogs only in cases where the animals are overrunning cemeteries and buildings. The proposed amendment would expand the use of poisoning and other lethal means of control to the entire National Grassland — even in areas designated for the reintroduction of the endangered black-footed ferret. Over the last 150 years, prairie dog populations have declined by more than 95%. Scientists say that if this downward trend continues burrowing owls, black-footed ferrets, and other wildlife will disappear along with the prairie dog.

Please send comments to the National Forest Service in opposition to this amendment by April 30, 2007. Ask the National Forest Service to reject the proposed amendment to the Thunder Basin National Grassland Prairie Dog Management Strategy, and to discontinue the use of poisoning to manage prairie dog populations. Visit API's [action alert page](#) for additional talking points.

Send a letter, fax or email to: Mary H. Peterson, Forest Supervisor, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, Thunder Basin National Grassland, Douglas Ranger District, 2250 East Richards Street, Douglas, WY, 82633, Attention: Marilee Houtler; fax: 307-358-7107; [email](#).

Support Pet Safety and Protection Act, HR 1280 / S 714

Important legislation that would protect dogs and cats from is now being considered by both the House and Senate. The federal Pet Safety and Protection Act (HR 1280 / S 714) would prohibit Class B dealers and unlicensed individuals from selling dogs and cats to research laboratories.

Class B Dealers are people who collect dogs and cats from random sources and sell them to the research industry. They sometimes obtain their animals through illegal or unethical means, such as by responding to “free to good home” ads in newspapers, falsifying records to keep the true origins of the animals unknown, and stealing pets kept outside in yards.

Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support and cosponsor the Pet Safety and Protection Act. Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate contact information or visit ASPCA's [Advocacy Center](#) to send a letter.

Urge State Senate to Vote No on SB 880, Sale of Kangaroo Skins

Senate Bill 880 was recently introduced that would allow the sale of kangaroo skins in the state of California. If this bill passes, it would erase a law that was implemented in 1980 to protect kangaroos by prohibiting the sale of their skins. A similar bill passed last session that reversed this protection for alligators and now their skins are allowed to be sold in California.

Please contact members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and urge them to vote no on SB 880. For committee member contact information and additional talking points, visit [IDA's action alert](#) page.

Support Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act, HR 661 / S 394

Introduced in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, S. 394/H.R. 661 (the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act) would prohibit USDA inspectors from approving meat from “downed” animals, and require humane euthanasia for any animal who cannot stand or walk.

Prohibiting the approval of meat from downed animals would provide an incentive for meat producers to improve the care of animals in order to prevent them from going down at all. The inhumane practices often inflicted on livestock in slaughterhouses affect the end consumer as well; all six confirmed cases of mad cow disease in North America reportedly were from downed animals. Thus, the passage of this Act will help both humans and animals.

Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support and cosponsor the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act. Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate contact information or visit ASPCA's [Advocacy Center](#) to send a letter.

Ask Assemblymember to Oppose AB 815, Bill That Takes Away Rights of Cities and Counties to Enact Local Anti-Trapping Laws

Please contact your Assemblymember to oppose Assembly Bill 815. If this bill passes, the state Fish and Game agency will become essentially the only entity with the power to adopt laws or regulations regarding the taking of fish and game in California.

AB 815 will take away the rights currently afforded to cities and counties in California to enact local anti-trapping laws specific to their communities. Under the new legislation, an ordinance could only be adopted if it meets extremely strict standards. AB 815 will expand the powers of Fish and Game at the expense of city and county government, and negatively impact these governments' ability to protect their citizens, companion animals, and wildlife. Because a hearing will be held soon on this legislation, please take action today to oppose AB 815.

Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate contact information or visit [API's action site](#) to obtain more information and send a letter.

Recent OCPA Activities

OCPA Presence at Patriot's Day Parade in Laguna Beach – Saturday, March 3rd

Coordinated by Bob Penney, OCPA members paid a visit to the Patriot's Day Parade in Laguna Beach on Saturday, March 3rd, and handed out close to 500 Vegetarian Starter Kits to the crowd.

As you may recall, the Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade board of directors has repeatedly rejected OCPA's application for a parade entry promoting a vegetable-based diet and kindness to animals, claiming our proposed entries are not "appropriate to the patriotic and family-community theme." Until the board of directors reconsiders this unfair decision, we'll continue to coordinate outreach activities to the crowds.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, March 4th 1:00 p.m. at Sydney's Vegetarian Cafe in Fullerton

The Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club met on Sunday, March 4th at 1:00 p.m. at Sydney's Vegetarian Cafe in Fullerton, 108 W. Wilshire Ave. Fullerton, CA 92832; phone (714) 525-5111.

OCPA Supports Corona Del Mar High School Vegetarian Week, March 19th

Congratulations to Melyssa Griffin for carrying out a very successful Vegetarian Week at Corona Del Mar High School.

Vegetarian Week took place the week of March 19th and coincided with the annual MeatOut Day. Volunteers distributed recipes and literature on Monday, March 19th after school at 3:00 p.m. and participated in a question and answer period on Friday, March 23rd during lunch. Jan Smith, president of UCI Students for Animal Rights, answered student questions about going vegetarian and vegan.

Fifty participants were provided with frozen vegetarian meat (like fakin' bacon, veggie burgers, etc.) so that they can learn what it's like to be a vegetarian.

"Our sincere hope with this project is that our participants will see that being a vegetarian is not difficult and that there are substitutes for nearly everything. We also plan to give them a vegetarian starter kit and plenty of handouts and facts showing them how a vegetarian diet is not only good for animals, but also for their health and the environment. VOCAL is extremely dedicated to animal rights and have already made strides to educate our peers."

Melyssa Griffin, Corona Del Mar student and president of VOCAL

OCPA will follow the results of this project and report on the veg feedback from the students.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club and Learning Session – Sunday, April 1st 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market in Huntington Beach

The Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club met again on Sunday, April 1st at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market in Huntington Beach, 19770 Beach Blvd, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; phone: (714) 963-MOMS (6667).

After lunch, a healthy diet learning session was held at Evelyn Oynebraaten's home in Huntington Beach.

And mark your calendars for our May luncheon, held on Sunday, May 6th at 1:00 p.m. at the Good Mood Food Café in Huntington Beach, 5930 Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92649; 714-377-2028; <http://www.goodmoodfood.com>.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

World Week for Animals in Labs Demo, UCLA – Monday, April 23rd, 11:00 a.m. in Los Angeles

Join OCPA, SAEN, LCA, IDA and other activists for a demo against UCLA vivisection to kick off the World Week for Animals in Labs campaign on Monday, April 23rd, at 11:00 a.m. in Los Angeles.

Location: Corner of Westwood and Le Conte in Westwood Village (northeast corner of the UCLA medical plaza). Parking is available on street meters or a parking lot on Le Conte west of the meeting place.

For more information, contact [Julie.meske@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meske@ocpausa.org) (for Orange County carpool) or Julia of SAEN at 310-402-1431. For more information about IDA and World Week for Animals in Labs including other activities planned for the week, visit: <http://www.wwail.org>.

Meatout/Earth Day Vegan Lunch at Foothill High School, Tustin – Wednesday, April 25th at 12:00 p.m.

OCPA is again sponsoring a free vegan lunch in honor of Meatout and Earth Day at Foothill High School in Tustin on Wednesday, April 25th, at 12:00 p.m.

We'll serve vegan tacos, sandwiches and other vegan food items to approximately 300 students – and also distribute veg*n literature to the students and answer any of their questions about adopting a healthy veg*n diet to improve their health, help the animals and protect the environment.

If you would like to volunteer with this effort, please contact Julie at julie.meske@ocpausa.org.

For more information about the Great American Meatout, registered events and information about FARM, visit <http://www.meatout.org> or call 1-800-MEATOUT.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, May 6th 1:00 p.m. at the Good Mood Food Café in Huntington Beach

Come out and join us at our monthly veggie/vegan luncheon club on Sunday, May 6th at 1:00 p.m. at the Good Mood Food Café, 5930 Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92649; 714-377-2028; <http://www.goodmoodfood.com>.

We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch. For more information or for carpooling, contact Wanda at 714-995-4889. And stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

Health Faire – Saturday, May 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Stanton Park, City of Stanton

OCPA is looking for volunteers to table at a resource faire put on by the city of Stanton.

This health-oriented faire will be held on Saturday, May 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Stanton Park near Beach Boulevard and the 22 freeway.

If you would like to help distribute literature on animal and health issues, please contact Evelyn at 714-846-7081 or email Julie at julie.meske@ocpausa.org.

Behind the Mask Screening – Saturday, May 26th, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Irvine

OCPA is sponsoring a screening of *Behind the Mask* on Saturday, May 26th, between 12:00 and 4:00 p.m. at the Goddess Temple, 17905 Sky Park Circle, Suite A, Irvine.

Behind the Mask is a unique documentary focusing on those individuals who take direct action to save animals. For more information about the film, visit: <http://www.uncagedfilms.com>.

Tickets for this event are \$10.00 (at the door or prepaid by check) and include a delicious vegan lunch. There will also be a cash bar available for beer and wine. Please RSVP to OCPA's hotline at 714-751-6272 or send an email RSVP to information@ocpausa.org.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event or would like additional information, contact Bob Penney at repenney@earthlink.net.

2007 ING Bay 2 Breakers 12K Fun Runners Centipede Race (VegNews) – Sunday, May 27th in San Francisco

Calling all male and female vegetarian and vegan runners! It's time to brush off the dust from your sneaks to participate in the 2007 ING Bay 2 Breakers 12K Fun Runners Centipede Race.

Sponsored by VegNews, this famous foot race takes place in beautiful San Francisco on Sunday, May 20th, and you won't want to miss it.

As a member of the VegNews Centipede, you'll receive free registration, a fabulous t-shirt, snacks, a delicious vegan lunch, the opportunity to make 13 new herbivorous friends and a free post-race party and concert. But there's a catch: Expect to run the race with a serious effort to promote vegetarianism.

All veg runners with 9-10 min/mile are encouraged to apply. If interested, please email, Team Leader, Christine Petrozzo at cpetrozzo@vegnews.com with contact information including: name, age, address, phone, email and distance running times. Although the registration deadline was April 1st, if still interested in running, contact Christine for more 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>, e-mail donations@ocpausa.org or subscription@ocpausa.org for additional information.

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