

OCPA E-Alert 4-15-04



In This OCPA E-Alert

Good News for the Animals

- Oklahoma becomes 48th state to outlaw cockfighting
- New York State Senate Passes Healthy School Lunch Resolution
- Barcelona, Spain Bans Bullfighting!

Recent OCPA Activities

- Dr. Michael Greger's Speech at Whittier Law School
- Great American Meat-Out at Orange H.S.
- The Genesis Awards

Action Items

- Ask USDA to Permanently Suspend CC Baird's Licenses to Sell Cats/Dogs for Experimentation
- Urge Glendale City Council to Reconsider Coyote Killing Plan
- Support AB 1857 to Ban Declawing of Captive Exotic Cats

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- Earth Day Celebrations – April 17th and April 22nd
- World Week for Animals in Labs – April 17 – 25th
- Genesis Awards Get-Together with Shark – April 25th

Good News for the Animals!

Oklahoma Becomes 48th State to Outlaw Cockfighting

The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled Oklahoma's anti-cockfighting ballot initiative – approved by voters in November 2002 – constitutional. Despite cockfighters' attempts to block enforcement of the law, the recent court ruling makes Oklahoma the 48th state to outlaw cockfighting.

New York State Senate Passes Healthy School Lunch Resolution

The New York State Senate recently passed the Healthy School Lunch Resolution, which encourages New York schools to provide a daily vegan lunch option. This follows a similar resolution in California. Hopefully, other states will follow California and New York's lead...

Barcelona, Spain Bans Bullfighting!

After being presented with a petition containing 250,000 signatures supporting a ban on bullfighting, Barcelona's mayor agreed to a vote on whether to ban it from the city. On April 6th, Barcelona's City Councilmen cast historic votes, declaring the Catalonian capital an anti-bullfight city. Jordi Portabella, the city's deputy mayor had previously declared his opposition to bullfighting in front of hundreds of protestors, saying, "Barcelona must act like a capital and be a pioneer in the abolition of bullfighting."

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Ask USDA to Permanently Suspend CC Baird's Licenses to Sell Cats/Dogs for Experimentation

The U.S. attorney in Arkansas is preparing a case against USDA-licensed CC Baird, one of the biggest dog dealers still operating in the U.S. Baird buys dogs at auctions (and then sells them to labs and companies for animal experimentation) and has a history of violations of the Animal Welfare Act. The USDA finally filed charges against the Bairds, issuing a temporary suspension to prevent them from selling cats and dogs.

Please contact the USDA and ask them to permanently suspend Baird's Class A and B licenses (and then post photos of the dogs in Baird's kennel to hopefully return them to their previous owners or loving new homes). Also contact the U.S. attorney's office in Arkansas, requesting a strong and permanent action against CC Baird.

Contact: Chester Gibson, Deputy Administrator, Animal Care USDA, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737; email: ace@aphis.usda.gov. Contact: H.E. Bud Cummins III, U.S. Attorney (Eastern District), P.O. Box 1229, Little Rock, AK 72203; phone: 501-340-2600; fax: 501-324-7199; email: Bud.Cummins@usdoj.gov.

Urge Glendale City Council to Reconsider Coyote Killing Plan

The City of Glendale, California recently voted to trap and kill coyotes in the area via a cruel device known as a neck snare, which slowly strangles the coyote to death. Despite the fact that coyotes rarely assault humans, fear and misinformation has apparently fueled this ruthless and unnecessary decision by the city.

Please write or call the Glendale City Council and the mayor of Glendale, encouraging them to reconsider this misguided and cruel coyote killing plan. Mayor Frank Quintero: fquintero@ci.glendale.ca.us. Glendale City Council, City Hall, 613 E. Broadway, Room 200, Glendale, CA 91206-4391; phone: 818-548-4844; fax: 818-547-6740.

Support AB 1857 to Ban Declawing of Captive Exotic Cats

Current California legislation would ban the declawing of captive exotic cats including lions and tigers. Declawing involves the amputation of the claw joint for each toe, is extremely painful and can affect the animal's weight-bearing distribution. Cats often become permanently crippled due to post-surgery complications.

Please contact your Assemblyperson and ask him/her to support AB 1857. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Recent OCPA Activities

Dr. Michael Greger's Speech at Whittier Law School

The ALDF at Whittier Law School hosted Dr. Michel Greger, a physician and internationally recognized speaker on a number of important public health and social justice issues, in mid-March. Dr. Greger addressed "*Corporate Globalization: Trading Away Our Rights to Protect Animals*," and shared his research about how global trade agreements and institutions such as GATT, NAFTA and the WTO have affected animals. Find out more about this renowned medical speaker on vegan nutrition and animal issues at: <http://www.veganmd.org/>.

Great American Meat-Out at Orange High School

OCPA's free vegan lunch at Orange High School in honor of the annual Great American Meat-Out was a huge success! Students learned more about the facts behind factory farms and the benefits of a plant-based diet while enjoying veggie dogs and other vegan fare.

The Genesis Awards

The Academy Awards of animal rights was recently held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills. For those who attended, it was an evening not to be forgotten. This year's celebrity presenters and attendees included Billy Baldwin, James Cromwell, Amy Davidson, Daryl Hannah, Bill Maher, Wendy Malick, Melissa Rivers, Doris Roberts, Alicia Silverstone, Amy Smart, David Sutcliffe and others.

Animal Plant is airing a two-hour television special on Sunday, April 25th at 3:00 p.m. Eastern time, and a one-hour presentation on Saturday, May 1st at 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 2nd, at 1:00 a.m. Eastern.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Earth Day Celebrations – Saturday, April 17th and Thursday, April 22nd

OCPA will participate in annual Earth Day celebrations on Saturday, April 17th at UCI and on Thursday, April 22nd at Saddleback College. Both events will feature various student club/organization displays, live music, speakers, educational booths and presentations increasing public awareness of critical environmental issues.

World Week for Animals in Labs – April 17th – April 25th

Various organizations throughout California and other states are holding demonstrations and events to educate the public about the horrors and atrocities that animals in labs experience. Check out <http://www.shacamerica.net/> or <http://www.wwail.org/> for more information about how you can raise awareness and help these animals.

Genesis Awards Get-Together with SHARK – Sunday, April 25th

Join other animal rights activists and enjoy vegan pizza while watching the 2004 Genesis Awards on Sunday, April 25th, at 11:30 a.m. in Irvine. SHARK (Showing Animals Respect and Kindness) was involved in the making of four Genesis Award nominations this past year, two of which were winners. After the show, guests can watch the complete award-winning programs featuring SHARK. Location: Lamppost Pizza, 4230 Barranca Parkway (on corner at West Yale Loop), Irvine 92604.

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 with the word "ADD" in the subject line. To unsubscribe, reply to this message with the word "REMOVE" in the subject line.