

OCPA E-Alert May 2004



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Good News for the Animals!

Foie Gras Bill Passes California Senate

SB 1520 recently passed the California State Senate – a major victory that would prohibit the production and sale of foie gras in the U.S. (the cruel force-feeding of birds to grossly enlarge their livers). The bill now goes to the California Assembly – so please contact your state assemblymembers and urge them to vote yes on SB 1520. (Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation> for contact information.) Visit <http://www.NoFoieGras.com> for additional information.

Detroit Zoo to Free Elephants

The Detroit Zoo decided to close its elephant exhibit and send the last two elephant residents, Winky and Wanda, to an elephant sanctuary. This is the first time a zoo has acknowledged that elephants are ill-suited for captivity – and then voluntarily decided to do the right thing for the animals. Hopefully, other zoos will also make this ethical and humane decision. We can only hope that this will also help educate the public and drive home the fact that wild animals are **not** meant to spend the majority of their lives in cages for human entertainment – zoos or circuses.

U.K. Establishes Center to Minimize Animal Testing

The Great Britain government established a new center designed to minimize the number of animals used in medical experiments. The decision follows fierce controversy about laboratory animals and violence from some animal rights activists – causing plans for a primate research lab to cease. The new center also seeks to improve standards of animal welfare by backing the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research, including the study of non-animal alternatives such as computer modeling, human volunteers or cultured cells grown in test tubes. Now if only the American government would consider a similar program...

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Ask Representative to Support HR 1563, the Antifreeze Safety Act

Every year, approximately 10,000 dogs and cats (and an untold number of wildlife) are victims of accidental poisoning by ingesting antifreeze. HR 1563 would require that all engine coolants and antifreezes that contain more than 10% ethylene glycol include a bittering agent to render it unpalatable to animals.

Please contact your Representative and ask him/her to support HR 1563. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Support the Illinois Bill to Ban Horse Slaughter

Legislation to ban horse slaughter was recently revived and is moving forward in the state legislature. If passed, amendment #4 to HB 649 would ban horse slaughter for human consumption and would prevent the re-opening of one of the nation's three remaining horse slaughterhouses.

Please contact Illinois Republican Leader, Tom Cross, and ask him to support Amendment #4 to HB 649. Phone: 815-254-0000; fax: 815-609-3994.

Protest Ground Squirrel Killing in Costa Mesa

Apparently, the city of Costa Mesa has been killing ground squirrels for 20 years by poisoning or placing gas pellets in burrows and then filling the holes with dirt.

Please contact the city council, mayor and park maintenance manager and remind them that killing wildlife is never a long-term solution for "overpopulation" problems! Ask them to stop the unnecessary slaughter of ground squirrels and to instead consider alternatives through humane wildlife conservation organizations.

Contact: City Council: CMCouncil@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us; Mayor Gary Monohan – fax: 714-754-5330; and Bruce Hartley, Park Maintenance Manager – phone: 714-754-5164.

Recent OCPA Activities

Earth Day at UCI on April 17th

This event was a success and featured various student club/organization displays, live music, speakers, educational booths and presentations increasing public awareness of critical environmental issues. Many students expressed an interest in joining OCPA and in helping animals.

OCPA also received approval to return to UCI on a regular (weekly) basis and we're currently looking for UCI student volunteers with some time available during the week. Please contact Julie Meskell at julie.meskell@ocpausa.org if you or someone you know is interested in tabling at the UCI campus.

Earth Day at Saddleback College on April 22nd

OCPA returned to Saddleback College for its annual Earth Day celebration, handing out literature, talking to students, obtaining volunteer information and enjoying the festivities.

Earth Day at Mater Dei High School on April 29th

OCPA also participated in a third Earth Day celebration at Mater Dei High School on April 29th and it was also a big success! Many students signed up to volunteer for and/or join OCPA – and all seemed receptive to the animal rights/pro-veg message.

Social Forum at Estancia High School on May 20th

OCPA recently participated in a “Social Forum” event at Estancia High School on May 20th. This forum was comprised of various progressive organizations including OC Peace Coalition, Green Party, Food Not Bombs, Union of Concerned Scientists, ACLU, Amnesty International, League of Women Voters, OC Young Democrats and others. The OCPA table was very popular and some students vowed to “go veg” after reading some of the pro-vegetarian literature.

Note: You probably noticed that OCPA has increased its outreach activities toward high school and college students. They are often very receptive and open to change and new ideas, and enthusiastic about getting involved to help spread the word for animals. Many of us – while having the best intentions – often don't have enough free time available due to work, families and other demands on our time. But, whether it's a through a quick phone call, letter, donation or a couple of hours once a month for tabling – everything counts and matters for the animals.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

OCPA Learning Session #1 – “The Vaccine Scam” – This Sunday, May 30th at 1:30 p.m.

For anyone who cares about animals and children, come attend OCPA's first learning session, “*The Vaccine Scam*,” this Sunday, May 30th at 1:30 p.m. Learn about a lie that has been told to us for so long and so many times that society as a whole believes it to be the truth. This is a multi-billion dollar business – one of the worst forms of human and animal abuse around – and you can personally stop it!

Come join the company of like-minded people, and enjoy scrumptious snacks and desserts. **There is NO charge for this session.** Speakers Paul Borraccia and Sue Marston, experts in the field of vaccines, will share information about the disastrous effects of vaccines on our children and companion animals.

Location: The beautiful home of Evelyn Oynebraaten, 5841 Lancefield Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 (close to Talbert and Springdale). Call Wanda at 714-995-4889 with any questions, or if lost, call Evelyn at 714-846-7081.

OCPA Learning Session #2 – “Prevention of Disease in Humans and Animals” – Sunday, June 27th at 2:00 p.m.

OCPA plans to hold a learning session once every month on the last weekend of the month. The second learning session, “*Prevention of Disease in Humans and Animals*,” is scheduled for Sunday, June 27th at 2:00 p.m. at the same location listed above. Dr. Charles Partito is the speaker for this event – look for more information in next month's e-alert or on the OCPA website.

Annual Gala and Write-In Event – Rescheduled for September 19th

Normally held in May, OCPA's annual gala and write-in event has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 19th at the beautiful lakeside Wyndham Garden Hotel in Costa Mesa. Please contact us if you're interested in participating on the event planning committee – and stay tuned for additional details over the coming months.

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>.

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