

OCPA E-Alert May / June 2008



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Recent OCPA Activities

- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, June 1st at 6:30 p.m. at Native Foods in Costa Mesa
- Compassion in Action (CIA) Sponsors Dog Adoption Night at Newport Harbor High School – Wednesday, June 4th 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Action Items

- Contact State Senator ASAP to: Oppose S 2296, the California Animal Enterprise Protection Act; Oppose AB 2427(Eng) Business and Professions; and Support AB 1634, the California Healthy Pets Act
- Ask U.S. Senators to: Oppose HR 767, the REPAIR Act; and Co-Sponsor/Support H Con Res 350/S Con Res 86 to Protect Whales
- Help Horses Now: Contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife About Plans to Remove Wild Horses from Refuge; Ask Legislators to Support American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act
- Urge Spain's Prime Minister to Stop Bullfighting

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- Orange County Animal Shelter Pet Fair – Saturday, Jun 28th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club (Picnic) – Sunday, July 6th at 5:00 p.m. at Col. Bill Barber Park in Irvine
- OC Fair Demonstrations – Friday, August 1st and Saturday, August 2nd

Special Note: Spring and summer bring with them an increase in local animal-related events, tabling activities and demonstrations. If you would like to receive occasional email notifications of these special outreach and volunteer opportunities, please respond to julie.meskell@ocpausa.org to have your email address included in a separate contact list. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you out and about this year on behalf of the animals.

Good News for the Animals!

Trader Joe's Ends Sales of Eggs from Cruel Producer

Trader Joe's announced its decision to end the sale of eggs produced by Gemperle, a producer whose inexcusable cruelty was exposed by investigative footage obtained by Farm Sanctuary and Mercy for Animals.

Polar Bears Listed as Threatened Under Endangered Species Act

After months of political-related delay, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued its decision to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The next step is to ensure strong climate legislation is passed to help the polar bear and other threatened arctic wildlife threatened by global warming and oil/gas development.

USDA Bans Downed Cattle from Food Supply

The USDA recently announced that it will implement a complete ban on slaughter for human consumption of cattle unable to stand and walk unassisted. This decision comes after The Humane Society of the United States documented horrible abuses of downed cows in a series of undercover videos, which then led to the closure of a California slaughterhouse.

Oprah Tries Vegetarian Diet

Oprah Winfrey decided to give conscious eating a try and went vegetarian for three weeks in order to experience health benefits.

During the first week, she stated: "How can you say you're trying to spiritually evolve, without even a thought about what happens to the animals whose lives are sacrificed in the name of gluttony? So this 21-day cleanse gives me a chance to think about it differently and see what my attachments are to certain kinds of foods—and what I'm willing to do to change."

And she had this to say on Day 21: "What I know for sure is I've reached a new level of awareness about food, eating and the whole process of how it gets to my table."

Visit Oprah's [blog](#) to discover more about her positive veg*n experiences.

Law Cracks Down on Animal Fighting and Puppy Mills

The U.S. Senate recently followed the lead of the House of Representatives and overrode President Bush's veto of the Farm Bill, ushering in key new protections for animals. The final bill (now considered law) bans the import of puppies from foreign puppy mills for commercial sale in the U.S. The Farm bill also adds a provision to federal law to make almost any form of animal fighting a federal felony. It's also now a federal crime to knowingly possess or train animals for fighting, and the maximum prison time for a single violation of any section of the law goes from three years to five years. The law also authorizes an increase in potential fines -- quadrupled from \$2,500 to \$10,000 -- for violations of the Animal Welfare Act, fines that haven't been upgraded in more than 20 years. Such penalties will more effectively deter abuses at puppy mills, laboratories, circuses, and other facilities that use animals.

KFC Canada Agrees to New Animal Welfare Plan

KFC Canada agreed to a historic new animal welfare plan that will dramatically improve the lives and deaths of millions of chickens killed for food. The company will phase in purchases of 100% of chickens from suppliers that use a less cruel form of slaughter, add a vegan faux-chicken item to the menu, urge its suppliers to adopt better practices, and other positive changes for the chickens.

One Million Taiwanese Vow to Become Vegetarian

More than one million people in Taiwan have pledged to help cut carbon emissions by becoming a vegetarian. Many prominent politicians – such as the legislative speaker, environment minister and two city mayors – all pledged to become vegetarians. According to the Union of NoMeatNoHeat, 20% of the world's carbon emissions are created by the livestock industry, 15 to 18 percent higher than that produced by all the world's transportation vehicles combined. The Union also said that if a person eats only vegetables for a whole year, approximately 1.5 tons of carbon emissions can be cut.

Marine Expelled from USMC for Animal Cruelty

According to a USMC news release, Lance Cpl. David Motari is "being processed for separation" from the Marine Corps.

The 17-second video that was posted on YouTube in March was an instant topic of discussion. The clip showed two Marines joking before Motari hurled a puppy into a rocky gully. There was a yelping sound heard as the puppy helplessly flipped through the air. The YouTube video was played hundreds of thousands of times before YouTube took it off their site because of a violation of the site's terms of use.

Besides being expelled from the Marine Corp, Motari also received unspecified non-judicial punishment. The second Marine in the video, Sgt. Crismarvin Banez Encarnacion, also received unspecified non-judicial punishment. "The actions seen in the Internet video are contrary to the high standards we expect of every Marine and will not be tolerated," Marine Corps Base Hawaii said in a news release.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

There are quite a few critical and time-sensitive legislative action items in this e-alert; your letters, calls and e-mails are important and *do* make a positive difference for the animals.

Contact State Senator ASAP to: Oppose S 2296, the California Animal Enterprise Protection Act; Oppose AB 2427 (Eng) Business and Professions; and Support AB 1634, the California Healthy Pets Act

Please contact your state senator as soon as possible on the following pieces of legislation:

- **Oppose S 2296, California Animal Enterprise Protection Act:** California universities and industry groups are pushing for the passage of the California Animal Enterprise Protection Act, AB 2296, which would silence California citizens and taxpayers who care about animals by censoring freedom of speech. This bill would provide animal enterprises with special exception from having to full disclose information about their laboratory and research practices, despite California's public records laws. It also imposes upon the right to discover whether animal experimenters are abiding by the Animal Welfare Act.

This bill was already passed unanimously by the Assembly; a Senate hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24th. Please visit [In Defense of Animals' site](#) and [Farm Sanctuary's site](#) to take immediate action and urge state senators and Judiciary Committee members to oppose this legislation and protect a citizen's right to know how taxpayer money is spent.

- **Oppose AB 2427, (Eng) Business and Professions:** This bill threatens both animals and consumers in California. If adopted, it will prevent local governments from passing various animal welfare laws deemed necessary to protect animals from inhumane practices. This bill is targeted toward overturning an existing West Hollywood ordinance banning the de-clawing of cats by veterinarians.

The Senate Business and Professions Committee is scheduled to vote on this legislation as early as Monday, June 23rd. Please contact the Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, California State Senate, Capitol Building, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814. Let him know that you strongly oppose this bill. Also call or email Bill

Gage, Consultant to the B&P committee (and sympathetic to animal rights); 916-651-4104;
bill.gage@sen.ca.gov.

- **Support AB 1634, the California Healthy Pets Act:** This bill, as originally written, would have prohibited people from owning or possessing unaltered cats or dogs over the age of six months without an intact animal permit. Violators would have been fined, and the money raised from the fines would have been used to fund free and low-cost spay and neuter programs. This legislation would have made California a safer place for all and save animal lives.

Unfortunately, this bill was just recently revised and stripped of its original language to now only target dogs and cats who are the subject of repeated complaints to animal control or repeated shelter impoundments. Please review the revised language at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov> (the bill's number is the same, but its name will change) and contact Assembly Member Lloyd Levine at AB1634staff@gmail.com with your comments, disappointments, suggestions, etc. A Senate Local Government Committee vote for the revised bill is now scheduled for Wednesday, June 25th.

For legislator contact information, visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm>.

Ask U.S. Senators to: Oppose HR 767, the REPAIR Act; and Co-Sponsor/Support H Con Res 350/S Con Res 86 to Protect Whales

Please also contact your U.S. senators as soon as possible on the following pieces of legislation:

- **Oppose HR 767, the REPAIR Act:** The Refuge Ecology Protection, Assistance and Immediate Response (REPAIR) Act will fund cruel, indiscriminate killing programs on our nation's wildlife refuges. The U.S. House of Representatives passed this legislation, as it was promoted as an invasive plant eradication bill.

Please contact U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, a member of the committee for HR 767, and urge her to oppose the REPAIR Act, at 202-224-3553.

- **Co-Sponsor/Support H Con Res 350/S Con Res 86 to Protect Whales:** Congress is currently considering H. Con Res. 350/S. Con. Res. 86, which would allow the U.S. to use all appropriate measures to end all forms of commercial whaling – including so-called “scientific whaling” – and seek to strengthen the conservation and management measures to help protect whale species. If passed, this resolution would send a strong message to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) member countries that still engage in commercial whaling through loopholes and lethal scientific programs.

Please contact U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (202-224-3841) and U.S. Representative John Campbell (202-225-5611) and ask them to co-sponsor/support this important resolution to end commercial whaling.

For additional legislator contact information, visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm>.

Help Horses Now: Contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife About Plans to Remove Wild Horses from Refuge; Ask Legislators to Support American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act

Please help horses today by taking the following actions:

- **Contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is preparing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, which will set new policies for how wildlife is managed on more than a half a million acres of high desert habitat in northwestern Nevada.

Please take action before June 30th by contacting Paul Steblein, Project Leader, Sheldon Hart-Mountain Complex National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 111, Lakeview, OR 97630; fax: 541-947-4414; email: SheldonCCP@fws.gov. Let him know that the wild horses, burros, antelope, sheep and other wildlife are an integral part of the landscape and should be allowed to live free and wild at the refuge.

- **Ask Legislators to Support the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act:** Even though the U.S. has a temporary ban on horse slaughter, U.S. horses are still being trucked to any of seven slaughterhouses in Canada to be killed, and the horse slaughter business in Canada has grown 75% as a result of this activity. The horses are often trucked from the U.S. for 36 hours without food or water, only to face gruesome deaths upon arrival in Canada.

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act must be passed, as it would ban the transport of U.S. horses to other countries for slaughter.

For more information on this important legislation, along with an action page, visit the [HSUS site](#).

Urge Spain's Prime Minister to Stop Bullfighting

According to a recent article, barbaric bullfighting bosses in Pinar, Spain plunged the already cruel "sport" to new depths by calling in a bulldozer to batter a bull for refusing to take on a matador. The bull ended up exhausted and bleeding before the matador came into the ring to kill him. The town could now be banned from holding more bullfights.

It is long past time that this barbaric blood sport ends. Although several Spanish cities have banned bullfighting, others continue it – and the country still holds its annual Running of the Bulls. Please visit [PETA Europe's site](#) to send an email to the Prime Minister of Spain, urging him to make Spain a country known for its compassion for all beings by putting an end to bullfighting and other "sports" that are cruel to animals.

Recent OCPA Activities

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, June 1st at 6:30 p.m. at Native Foods in Costa Mesa

The Veg*n Lunch group met on Sunday, June 1st at 6:30 p.m. at Native Foods in Costa Mesa.

We had a lively, fun crowd; some joined the drum circle afterwards at The Camp.

Native Foods is located at The Camp, near the corner of Baker and Bristol at 2937 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; (949) 751-2151; <http://www.nativefoods.com>.

Compassion in Action (CIA) Sponsors Dog Adoption Night at Newport Harbor High School – Wednesday, June 4th 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Thank you to all who attended the CIA Club's very first Dog Adoption Night at Newport Harbor High School on Wednesday, June 4th from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Newport Harbor High School in Newport Beach.

The CIA (Compassion in Action Club) is hoping the school administration will decide to make this the start of an annual event. It was a lively event with live music by Alec Marken and Deep Stirrings. Jane Valez-Mitchell did a superb job of emceeding the event. Caricature artist, Wally Stratton entertained the crowd with caricatures and balloon animals.

Please contact Karen Coyne/President and Founder of the CIA Club if you have any interest in getting further involved with the CIA Club. They have other fundraising events in the works, such as an adult wine tasting. And other student-centered events include a trip to an animal sanctuary.

Karen Coyne at the ciacub@mac.com, <http://www.theciclub.com>.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Orange County Animal Shelter Pet Fair – Saturday, June 28th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Orange

OCPA will have an information table at the Orange County Animal Shelter Pet Fair on Saturday, June 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

OC Animal Services, 561 The City Drive South, Orange CA 92868

For more information on the Pet Fair, visit www.ocpetinfo.com. If you can help distribute literature on animal issues for one hour or more, please call Evelyn at (714) 846-7081 or email her at oynebra@aol.com.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club (Picnic) – Sunday, July 6th at 5:00 p.m. at Col. Bill Barber Park in Irvine

OCPA will have a potluck picnic on Sunday, July 6th starting at 5:00 p.m. at Col. Bill Barber Park in Irvine.

Please join us and bring a prepared vegan dish to share. (No meat, fish, fowl, dairy, eggs, whey, honey, or other animal-derived ingredients, please.) Dogs are welcome.

Col Bill Barber Park, 4 Civic Center Plaza located at the corner of Barranca and Harvard in Irvine.

The picnic shelters are located at the park set back from Harvard Avenue between San Juan and San Leon/Civic Center Plaza. Parking is located in the parking lot near the intersection of San Juan and Harvard.

Look for the OCPA banner.

Directions to Bill Barber Park in Irvine:

- **From the I-5 Freeway:** Exit Jamboree and go southwest (from I-5 northbound turn left; from I-5 southbound turn right). Barranca (left). Harvard (right). San Juan (right into park)
- **From the 405 Freeway:** Exit Jamboree and go northeast (from 405 northbound turn right; from 405 southbound turn left). Alton (right). Harvard (left). San Juan (left into Park).

We look forward to seeing you there!

OC Fair Demonstrations – Friday, August 1st and Saturday, August 2nd

OCPA will attend the OC Fair this summer to demonstrate against the cruelty of the Extreme Rodeo Show (scheduled for 8:15 p.m. on Friday August 1st) and the Bull-Riding Show (scheduled for Saturday, August 2nd at 4:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.) Save the dates and stay tuned for more information in next month's e-alert.

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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