

OCPA E-Alert June 2005



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Good News for the Animals!

AB 820 Captive Exotic Animal Bill Passes

AB 820, a bill to help exotic animals in California, just passed the Senate Natural Resources Committee and will amend the Fish and Game Code relating to the keeping of exotic animals within the state. The bill addresses issues relating to the lack of implementation, enforcement, and reporting requirements of existing laws governing the keeping of exotic animals in the state.

Two Horse Slaughter Amendments Pass U.S. House

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to halt the taxpayer support for the slaughter of nearly 90,000 horses per year. The Sweeney-Spratt amendment (to the agriculture appropriations bill) effectively eliminates the practice of slaughtering horses for consumption overseas. And last month, the House voted to ban the sale of wild horses for slaughter (the Rahall-Whitfield amendment to the interior

appropriations bill). These two amendments now move to the U.S. Senate for a vote, so please [contact your Senators](#) today and urge them to support these two important amendments.

Wild Oats and Whole Foods Adopt Cage-Free Egg Policy

Immediately after Wild Oats Markets announced they had gone cage-free, Whole Foods, the country's largest natural foods retailer, adopted its own cage-free egg policy to refuse to sell or use any eggs from caged birds. These two retailers have joined a growing list of companies and universities deciding to spare egg-laying hens from intensive confinement in battery cages.

Global Commercial Whaling Ban Upheld

The International Whaling Commission recently decided that there will be no legal commercial whaling – at least not for another year. Member governments voted to uphold the 19-year-old global whaling moratorium, handing a defeat to Japan and other pro-whaling nations including Iceland, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Norway, Russia and others.

Oregon Considers Foie Gras Ban

Oregon's Senate passed a bill to outlaw the production and sale of fattened duck and goose livers, making it a crime to force-feed fowl or serve the fattened livers in restaurants. The bill now faces a vote in Oregon's House of Representatives – and if passed, Oregon would become the second state, along with California, to ban foie gras production.

Animal Torturer Sentenced to 10-1/2 Years in Prison

A 20-year-old Colorado man convicted of stealing four puppies from a shelter and setting them on fire was sentenced to 10-1/2 years in prison. The judge's ruling in this case sent a strong message; hopefully, other prosecutors across the country will also consider animal cruelty a serious crime requiring severe punishment.

Conservation Congress Drops Feral Cat Proposal

Thankfully, Wisconsin's Conservation Congress decided to drop Q62, the cat-hunting proposal, from further consideration. For additional information on this topic, visit <http://www.dontshootthecat.com>.

Vegbay.com Launched for Vegetarian and Eco-Conscious Communities

Vegetarianwomen.com recently launched a free online auction site, vegbay.com, for the vegetarian and eco-conscious communities. The new auction site promotes vegetarianism and environmentally-aware consumerism, with the additional goal of promoting vegetarian-related and green businesses. The demand for organic, vegan, cruelty-free and fair trade products is growing...

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urgent: Urge Senators to Oppose AB 87 (“Nuisance” Wildlife)

Unfortunately, AB 87 continues to move forward and just passed the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. The bill now moves to the Senate Business & Professions Committee for consideration on Monday, June 27th.

If passed into law, this bill will release certain “pest” control operators from the requirement of obtaining a trapping license from the Department of Fish & Game for trapping skunks and opossum for profit. This bill as it is now written would leave certain species without basic protections if those animals come into conflict with humans.

Please help fight this bill by contacting your state Senators today and urging them to oppose AB 87. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Join the Boycott on Canadian Seafood; Contact Red Lobster and the Olive Garden

As many of you know, the Canadian government recently allowed sealers to slaughter nearly 260,000 seals within just seven days, 99.5% of which were baby seals of about one month of age or less. Although the Canadian government continues to attempt to portray this atrocity as “subsistence and traditional,” this is nothing more than a cruel and destructive practice in the name of profits from pelt/fur sales.

It is too late to save these latest victims, but it is not too late to fight to keep the hunt from starting again. The financial pressure of a boycott of Canadian seafood products will force the Canadian government to do what common decency has not and end the senseless seal hunt forever.

Please join the HSUS, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and other activists in the boycott of Canadian seafood by contacting the managers at the Red Lobster and Olive Garden restaurants in your community. Ask them not to stock seafood from Canada, specifically snow crabs. Also contact Joe E. Lee, Chairman, and Clarence Otis, Jr., CEO, of the Darden Group (which owns both the Red Lobster and the Olive Garden): The Darden Group, 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, Orlando, FL 32809.

Stop Hawthorn Elephants from Going to Circus

The Hawthorn Corporation is one of the country's largest suppliers of elephants and tigers to the entertainment industry. During the past 10 years, the USDA has charged Hawthorn with numerous counts of animal cruelty and fined them hundreds of thousands of dollars for violations of the Animal Welfare Act. The USDA recently set a deadline for Hawthorn to surrender all of its elephants to a USDA-approved facility. Unfortunately, it has been discovered that five of the 12 elephants are being sent to the Endangered Ark Foundation, owned and operated by Carson & Barnes Circus, another notorious animal abuser with a long history of documented Animal Welfare Act violations.

Even though the USDA has already approved the transfer of the elephants to Carson & Barnes, please contact them now and urge them to instead send the elephants to The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee – which has agreed to accept all of the females by this September. Go to <http://ga0.org/campaign/hawthorn> to urge the Secretary of Agriculture, Michael Johanns, to send the elephants to the humane Sanctuary instead where they can live long lives free from abuse. You can also contact him at: The Honorable Michael O. Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, S.W., Room 200-A, Washington, DC 20250, agsec@usda.gov, phone 202-720-3631; fax 202-720-2166.

Help Educate Oprah on the Cruelty of Veal and Foie Gras

Famous talk show host and television producer, Oprah Winfrey, recently threw a lavish ball to honor the 25 black women she admires most. Unfortunately, the event included dishes like veal and foie gras on the menu – two items that represent the extreme end of cruelty in the animal agriculture industry.

Please contact Oprah and politely let her know that the animals used to make foie gras and veal suffer greatly before they reach the dinner plate. Urge her not to serve these items at future events and to possibly consider addressing these issues on her show. Contact Oprah via her website at: http://www.oprah.com/email/reach/email_reach_fromu.jhtml or write to: The Oprah Winfrey Show, Harpo Studios, 1058 W. Washington Street, Chicago, IL 60607.

Help Stop Slaughter of Santa Cruz Island Pigs

The National Park Service and the Nature Conservancy, co-owners of the Santa Cruz Island off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, claim that feral pigs must be immediately eradicated in order to “restore land to its natural state.” Despite mounting criticism and charges of financial deceit, private exterminators hired by the two organization to kill every pig will use \$6 million of taxpayer money. The New Zealand-based company, Prohunt, boasts of already having killed over 1,000 pigs in less than two months using trained dogs, guns, knives and clubs.

Santa Barbara resident, Rick Feldman, has filed a federal lawsuit against the perpetrators of this slaughter to force an immediate end to their senseless hunt. Please join Feldman, IDA and others to urge Interior Secretary Gale Norton and California Congresswoman Lois Capps to intervene and stop the pig massacre:

- Interior Secretary Gale Norton: <http://ga0.org/campaign/SantaCruzIslandPigs>
- California Congresswoman Lois Capps: <http://www.house.gov/writerep>

Recent OCPA Activities

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

OCPA joined Tribe of Heart and other animal rights advocates for a screening of "Peaceable Kingdom" on April 22nd at the Newport Beach Film Festival. Dr. Alison Stanley, one of OCPA's board of directors, provided a brief overview of OCPA. According to Dr. Stanley, "no one left the screening unaffected."

Peaceable Kingdom is a documentary that 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>.

OCPA Earth Day/Meatout Event at Foothill High School on April 29th

Earth Day/Meatout was a smashing success at Foothill High School! The students raved about the delicious soy taco lunch (with freshly made tortillas) that OCPA served. The chocolate soymilk, Tings, and assorted vegan cookies were also a big hit. Several students told us that they have been vegetarian since we were there two years before for Earth Day; they thanked us for introducing new and exciting vegan foods and sharing our enlightening literature.

Thanks to OCPA members Evelyn Oynebraaten, Sila Ponce and Bob Penney for hosting this wonderful event. Special thanks to the Students for Animal Rights Co-Presidents Chelsea Howe, Mary and Carly Michelsen, Dana Patterson, and Zach Partain. We look forward to a continued partnership on animal issues with this dynamic club. Also thank you to Dawn Bennet, faculty club advisor, Kelly McQuown, ASB chairperson, and Principal Al Marzilli, for supporting this event.

Human Rights Forum at Estancia High School on June 7th

OCPA volunteers attended the Estancia High School Human Rights/Human Relations Club Tuesday, June 7th, 6-8 p.m. for a social forum. Community organizations were invited to share information on the work they do on social and political issues. Tables were set up with six to eight chairs for student visitors. Students went from table to table, sat down and talked to each community group about their issues, organization, goals, platform, solutions, etc. Progressive groups such as OCPA, the Green Party, Answer and Democracy participated in this great opportunity for the students to learn about local non-profit organizations that are doing important work in which the students can become involved.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

AR2005 Conference – Westin LAX, July 7-11 and UCLA Demonstration, July 11

FARM is sponsoring the Animal Rights 2005 National Conference on July 7-11th at the Westin LAX in Los Angeles. The conference features workshops, exhibits, networking receptions, plenaries, vegan food and activities for those interested in the animal rights movement. For additional information and to register for this event, visit <http://www.AR2005.org> or call 1-888-ASK-FARM.

Also note: Stop Animal Exploitation Now (SAEN) is organizing a demonstration at UCLA on Monday, July 11th as the AR2005 conference concludes. SAEN is looking for volunteers to help with signs and to attend this event. For additional information and to volunteer, contact Michael at saen@saenonline.org.

Elephant Ride Tabling at the Orange County Fair, July 9-10, 16-17, 23-24 and 30-31

OCPA would like to make this summer the last one for elephant rides at the Orange County Fair. Every summer for the entire month of July, *Have Trunk Will Travel* drives some of their elephants from Perris to Costa Mesa and makes them walk in endless circles on hot pavement giving rides for profit (under the threat of a bullhook). OCPA will have a table set up under a shade canopy just outside of the entrance to the elephant ride inside the Fair's entrance. We will distribute literature about the cruelty of elephant rides and the dangerous history of *Have Trunk Will Travel*. In this way, we will attempt to educate fair goers and discourage them from riding the elephants.

OCPA will table on all four weekends in July, Saturday and Sunday between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., July 9-10, 16-17, 23-24 and 30-31.

If you are interested in volunteering for this effort, please contact Alison at information@ocpausa.org with "Volunteer" in the topic line to commit to a four-hour shift on one of the dates she still has available. *Note:* Parking and admission are free to volunteers.

Rodeo/Bullride Tabling at the Orange County Fair, July 30-31

OCPA will also table at the Orange County Fair to educate people about the cruelty of rodeos and bullriding – and try to discourage them from participating in these types of events exploiting animals in the name of "entertainment."

We'll be at the Flying U Rodeo on Saturday, July 30th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., and at the Fiesta Del Charro bullriding event on Sunday, July 31st between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering for this effort, please contact Julie at julie.meske@ocpausa.org with "Volunteer" in the topic line.

Ringling Bros. Circus Demonstration – July 27

OCPA is working with local activists to organize an opening night demonstration against the Ringling Bros. circus at the Anaheim Pond in Anaheim on Wednesday, July 27th. We will assemble at 6:00 p.m. outside of the entrance that is located on the parking lot side of the Pond. Signs and leaflets will be provided. For more information, contact Alison at drstanley@charter.net or information@ocpausa.org.

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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