

OCPA E-Alert June 2006



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- OC Fair Rodeo and Elephant Ride Demonstrations – July
- Ringling Brothers Circus Demonstration – Arrowhead Pond, Saturday, July 29th, 6:00 p.m.
- Annual Write-In and Member Get-Together – Saturday, August 12th, 6:00 p.m. in Orange
- AR2006 National Conference – August 10-14th, Washington, DC

Good News for the Animals!

SB 1578, Dog Anti-Chaining Bill, Passes Senate and Assembly

SB 1578, the dog anti-chaining bill, passed both the Senate and the Assembly Business and Professions Committee. The bill next faces the Assembly Appropriations Committee some time in August. We'll send committee contact details and additional information in the next e-alert. Once passed, this bill will ban the practice of chaining or tethering a dog to a stationary object as the primary means of confinement. Not only is chaining dogs inhumane and unsafe for the animals, but SB 1578 will give animal control an additional tool to protect our canine companions from long-term neglect and reduce incidences of dog bites and attacks in our community.

Philadelphia Considers Foie Gras Ban

Following Chicago's lead in becoming the first American city to outlaw the sale of foie gras (diseased duck and geese liver), Philadelphia may also ban the cruel product. According to City Councilman, Jack Kelly, who introduced the legislation, "Force feeding birds to make an expensive appetizer is cruel and unnecessary, and it should not be condoned in our society."

Welch's Ceases Animal Experimentation

It's hard to imagine why a company that makes grape juice would test on animals, but it was. In one experiment, dogs' chests were cut open to induce massive blood clotting, and a tube was then attached to their stomachs in order to pump them full of grape juice. Afterward, the experimenter collected blood samples by "fresh puncture" of the dogs' hearts. In another experiment, hundreds of rats were poisoned with toxic chemicals, fed grape juice, and cut up to observe the effect that it had on their bodies. Those are just a few of the tests that were conducted on innocent dogs, monkeys, rabbits, and rats.

After PETA warned the company that it was prepared to launch an international boycott campaign to educate the public about its cruel and deadly animal experiments, Welch's recently agreed to stop funding all animal tests. Following Welch's groundbreaking decision to adopt a formal policy against animal testing, juice companies Ocean Spray and Tahitian Noni International adopted similar policies after hearing from thousands of caring people around the world and examining the evidence against animal experimentation. PETA continues its efforts to convince POM Wonderful to follow suit and stop animal testing.

Ralph Lauren Goes Fur-Free

After corporate representatives were shown video footage from a fur farm in China, Ralph Lauren announced a precedent-setting decision, based purely on ethics, to no longer use fur in any of its apparel or home collections. Way to go, Ralph!

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge Representative to Support H.R. 503 to Stop Commercial Sale and Slaughter of Horses

If passed, H.R. 503 – the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act – will end the slaughter of horses for human consumption and the domestic and international transport of live horses or horseflesh for the same purpose.

Please contact your representative and urge him/her to support H.R. 503. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Ask Senators to Pass H.R. 3858 to Protect Animals in Natural Disasters

After passing both the House and Senate, the Pet Evacuation Bill (HR 3858/S 2548) also recently passed the California Senate Committee on Government Operations (A.B. 450). This important legislation now faces consideration in the Senate Committee on Appropriations. The PETS Act requires state and local emergency management agencies to take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals in the event of a major disaster.

Please contact your state senators and ask them to support this bill to ensure emergency plans consider the needs of animals and their owners/guardians. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Contact Assembly Committee to Support SB 1806, Companion Animals in Vehicles

The California State Senate approved SB 1806, making it a crime to leave or confine a companion animal in an unattended vehicle under conditions that endanger the health or well-being of the animal. Leaving animals unattended is a dangerous and potentially fatal mistake – and the dangers increase during warmer weather when temperatures inside a parked car can reach above 100 degrees F.

The bill now faces the Assembly Committee on Public Safety. Please contact committee assembly members and ask them to support SB 1806 today. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Urge Assembly Committee to Support SB 1349, Anti-Cockfighting Bill

The Anti-Cockfighting Bill, SB 1349, recently passed the California state senate and now faces a vote in the Assembly Committee on Public Safety.

This bill will increase penalties for animal fighting by permitting felony charges to be brought against a person who is arrested a second or subsequent time for illegal cockfighting. Nevada, Oregon and Arizona have all passed felony laws against cockfighting; because of this, California has unfortunately become a haven for thousands of illegal cockfighters statewide.

Please contact committee assembly members and ask them to support SB 1349 today. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Recent OCPA Activities

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, June 4th 1:15 p.m. at The Wheel of Life, Irvine

The Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club met again on Sunday, June 4th at The Wheel of Life restaurant in Irvine.

Everyone enjoyed the excellent vegan cuisine at this location. If you've never been, we highly recommend it! They also have a new location in Huntington Beach.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, July 2nd 1:00 p.m. at Avanti Cafe in Costa Mesa with Featured Speaker, Sandra Bell

Our next veggie/vegan luncheon will be held on Sunday, July 2nd at 1:00 p.m. at Avanti Cafe, 259 E. 17th Street, Costa Mesa, 92627. Phone: 949-548-2224. It is located in the Mother's Market shopping center between Orange and Santa Ana avenues.

Everyone – vegetarian, vegan or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch and we hope to see you there! This month we will have a speaker on the topic of health. Ms. Sandra Bell has been a vegan for over 20 years and is a lifetime vegetarian. She is a co-founder of an educational, health, and environmental organization called People for Reason in Science and Medicine. Sandra, at age 61, teaches ballet dancing as she has for years. Prior to her teaching career she was a professional ballet dancer.

After lunch, anyone interested can wander through Mother's Market for some shopping...

For more information or to RSVP, contact Wanda at 714-995-4889 or Julie at julie.meskeill@ocpausa.org. And stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

OC Fair Rodeo and Elephant Ride Demonstrations – July

We are currently finalizing plans for demonstrations at the Orange County Fair in July against both the rodeo and elephant rides.

To help volunteer or for more information, contact Julie at julie.meskeill@ocpausa.org.

Ringling Brothers Circus Demonstration – Arrowhead Pond, Saturday, July 29th 6:00 p.m.

The Most Terrible Show on Earth (Ringling Brothers) is coming back to the Pond this summer. Join us for a peaceful demonstration to educate circus attendees to the cruelty inherent in this form of "entertainment."

We'll hold at least one demonstration on opening weekend, Saturday, July 29th at 6:00 p.m. Extra signs will be provided.

Additional details will be announced in an upcoming e-alert. Contact Charlotte for additional information at 714-724-9114 or pinkslipgirl@sbcglobal.net.

Annual Write-In and Member Get-Together – Saturday, August 12th, 6:00 p.m. in Orange

Come out and join us for a fun time at our annual write-in and member get-together at the home of OCPA president, Tina Locklear, on Saturday, August 12th at 6:00 p.m.

We'll serve a vegan meal and drinks and will have write-in letters available for download via our website (or on CD upon request). The letters will focus on local, national and international animal-related issues and legislation. If you have an idea for letter content, please send it to us at information@ocpausa.org.

Location: 1735 N. Lincoln Street, Orange. Please RSVP at 714-751-6272 or via e-mail at information@ocpausa.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

AR2006 National Conference – August 10-14th, Washington, DC

It's not too late to register for the AR2006 National Conference held on August 10-14th at the Hilton Mark Center Hotel in Alexandria, a suburb of Washington, DC.

This dynamic conference features 85 speakers and exhibits from the animal rights/welfare and vegan/vegetarian movement including PETA, IDA, FARM, Sea Shepherd, Vegan Outreach, COK, UPC, Animal Acres, VegNews, Animals Voice, Satya, E Magazine, DawnWatch and many others.

For more information and to register for this event, call 888-327-6872 or visit <http://www.arconference.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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