

OCPA E-Alert June 2007



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- AR 2007 National Conference – July 19-23rd at the Westin LAX
- OC Fair and Ringling Bros Demonstrations – July and August
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, August 5th 1:30 p.m. at The Stand in Laguna Beach

Good News for the Animals!

AB 1634, California Healthy Pets Act, Passes Assembly Floor and Moves to State Senate Committee

The California Healthy Pets Act (AB 1634) overcame one more hurdle on its way to becoming law and passed the assembly floor in early June. It now moves on to the state Senate and will be considered by the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee in early July (refer to the [Action Items](#) section for more information).

Horse Slaughter Ban Upheld in Texas

Despite threats that horse slaughter would be legalized by a stealth floor amendment in the final Texas state legislative session, the effort did not succeed and the ban remains.

HR 2337 Energy Bill Passes Committee

The House Natural Resources Committee passed HR 2337, legislation that would offer a crucial lifeline to polar bears, monk seals and other wildlife threatened by global warming. Visit [Defenders of Wildlife's](#) action page to send a message to your representative urging this important bill's passage.

S 1406/HR 2327 (Polar Bear Protection Act) Passes Committee

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved an amendment to prohibit the import of sport-hunted polar bear trophies into the U.S. The amendment stops funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to issue permits for the importation of sport-hunted polar bear trophies for one year. Contact your [representative](#) and ask him/her to support HR 2327 to permanently ban trophy imports.

Anti Foie Gras Bill Introduced in Philadelphia

An anti foie gras bill has recently been introduced in Philadelphia, joining other compassionate cities in the U.S. to outlaw the practice of force-feeding ducks and geese for this cruel cuisine.

Forplay Goes Fur-Free

Forplay recently announced the following to PETA: “[I]n an effort [to] reflect good corporate citizenship, Forplay Inc. has instituted a NO FUR policy effective immediately. Thank you for taking the time to discuss this important issue with me and I hope that our efforts will spare the lives of some animals.” Forplay Inc.’s compassionate decision to stop selling fur will help spare countless rabbits and other animals from needless pain, suffering, and death.

Chicago's Foie Gras Ban Remains

A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Illinois Restaurant Association to overturn Chicago's foie gras ban. The judge summed up her 26-page ruling by stating, “Chicago's ban of foie gras sales in restaurants does not exceed the city's home rule powers or violate the dormant Commerce Clause. Thus, the Ordinance does not violate the Illinois or U.S. constitutions.”

OR Governor Signs Farm Animal Cruelty Bill into Law

The Oregon governor signed legislation prohibiting a particularly inhumane method of confining animals on factory farms. The new law will bar the use of gestation crates to confine breeding sows in the pig industry. Oregon is now the first state in the country to ban the use of gestation crates by action of a state legislature; Arizona and Florida have done so through voter ballot initiatives.

While this is more good news for sows, the 2007 Farm Bill's Section 123 (federal legislation) would override any state and local animal protection laws (refer to the [Action Items](#) section for more information).

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge State Senate Committee to Support AB 1634, California Healthy Pets Act

After recently passing the Assembly Floor, the California Healthy Pets Act (AB 1634) now moves to the the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee in early July for a vote.

The California Healthy Pets Act will save taxpayers millions and provide a humane alternative to euthanizing hundreds of thousands of unwanted animals who end up in local shelters. This law would require that nearly every dog and cat in the State of California be spayed or neutered, with certain exemptions provided. Hundreds of supporters for the bill made the trek to the State Capitol in support of this critical legislation.

If you have not already done so, please contact your state senator and urge him/her to support AB 1634. Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate legislator contact information or visit <http://www.cahealthypets.com> for more information. Also utilize [PETA's action center alert](#) to send a message to the committee members.

Urge U.S. Representative to Oppose Section 123 of 2007 Farm Bill

A subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives has recently drafted language for the upcoming 2007 Farm Bill which could effectively block crucial advancements in state and local animal protection laws.

If enacted, this federal legislation would override any state and local animal protection laws – whether passed by state legislature or by voters. We agree with the Last Chance for Animals' statement: "This is an outrageous power grab that would completely undermine the democratic process and deny citizens the right to pass state and local laws on issues of humane treatment or food safety."

Contact your U.S. Representative as soon as possible and urge him/her to oppose Section 123 of the 2007 Farm Bill. Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate contact information.

Ask State Assembly Members to Oppose SB 880 and Stop Sale of Kangaroo Products in CA

Unfortunately, SB 880 – the bill that would overturn an over 30-year prohibition on the sale of kangaroo products in California – passed the California Senate earlier this month. This bill now moves to the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee for a vote.

Please contact the members of the committee and urge them to oppose SB 880. Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate contact information.

Tell Amazon to Stop Selling Cockfighting Magazines

Amazon.com is being targeted by activists for its continued sale of two cockfighting magazines, The Gamecock and The Feathered Warrior. According to The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), which sued Amazon.com and the publishers of these magazines on February 8, 2007 for violating federal law, Amazon.com is the only outlet for cockfighters to buy and sell subscriptions over the Internet. The law being violated is the federal Animal Welfare Act which has a provision banning the interstate shipment of fighting birds. Amazon calls what it's doing free speech, but HSUS argues that the First Amendment does not protect a company's right to solicit illegal behavior and peddle contraband. Amazon does not sell magazines that advertise the sale of narcotics, child pornography, or other illegal materials. The same standard should apply to all staged animal fighting publications including cockfighting magazines.

Please tell Amazon you do not support the sale of cockfighting magazines and ask your friends and family to do the same. Tell Amazon you will not buy books or other merchandise from Amazon.com until the company stops promoting cockfighting and violating federal law.

Contact: Jeffrey P. Bezos, President & CEO, Amazon.com, Inc., 1200 12th Avenue South, Suite 1200, Seattle, WA 98144-2734; email: Jeffrey@amazon.com or Community_help@amazon.com; phone: 800-201-7575 (press 7 when prompted. This number, though intended for transaction problems like shipping, is the only phone number available). You can also go to the Amazon.com website and try to outwit the website's obstacles to protest communications.

For more information about cockfighting visit: www.upc-online.org/cockfighting/

Recent OCPA Activities

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, June 3rd 1:30 p.m. at The Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach

The Veg*n Lunch group met on Sunday, June 3rd at The Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach for our monthly lunch get-together and birthday celebration for OCPA member, Wanda Ballard.

The Bodhi Tree is located at 501 Main Street, Suite E, H.B. 92648; (714) 969-9500;
<http://www.bodhitreecafe.net>.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, July 1st 1:30 p.m. at Zen Vegetarian Restaurant in Westminster

Join us at our monthly veggie/vegan luncheon club on Sunday, July 1st at 1:30 p.m., at the [Zen Vegetarian Restaurant - Quan Com Chay Viet Nam](#), 9329 Bolsa Ave, Westminster, California 92683 (between Moran and Bushard in Little Saigon, Orange County); (714) 895-3637 – “vegan-friendly, Vietnamese, Chinese, Thai.”

We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch. For more information or for carpooling, contact Wanda at 714-995-4889 or Evelyn at (714) 846-7081. And stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

AR 2007 National Conference – July 19-23rd at the Westin LAX

You won't want to miss the largest animal rights conference in the U.S., AR 2007 National Conference, held between July 19th and 23rd at the Westin LAX.

The conference features over 100 sessions including workshops, raps and reports, 80 speakers from all sectors of the animal rights/welfare movement, vegan meals, free exhibits, videos and much more.

OCPA will have a table at the conference. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us ASAP at information@ocpausa.org with *AR 2007 Volunteer* as the subject heading.

Call 800-632-8688 today to register for this great event, or visit FARM and register online at <http://www.arconference.org>.

Special Note:

If you are interested and available for tabling (distributing veg*n, OCPA and animal rights literature) on Thursdays between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at Orange Coast College, contact Evelyn at (714) 846-7081 for arrangements.

OC Fair and Ringling Brothers Demonstrations – July and August

It's that time of year again when we seem surrounded by examples of animal cruelty and animals exploited in the name of “entertainment” in Orange County. We're in the process of making demonstration plans for both the OC Fair (July 13th through August 5th) in Costa Mesa and the Ringling Brothers Circus (July 25th to August 5th) in Anaheim.

As many of you already know, the OC Fair still insists on featuring elephant rides, rodeos, and this year – a new addition – a cattle drive featuring 300 steers on the streets of Costa Mesa (July 27th). In fact, the theme for the fair this year is actually “Cowabunga.” And, of course, the circus continues to abuse and torture exotic animals for profit across the country every year.

We're looking for committed and motivated volunteers to help organize and orchestrate these various demonstrations. If you are interested, please contact us ASAP at information@ocpausa.org and include your contact information, proposed event, date(s), and other details for demonstration(s). We'll provide literature, posters, banners and other materials for the demonstration.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, August 5th 1:30 p.m. at The Stand in Laguna Beach

Also plan to join us at our monthly veggie/vegan luncheon club on Sunday, August 5th at 1:30 p.m., at The Stand, 238 Thalia Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 (about five blocks south of Main beach, ½ block north of PCH on the left); 949-494-8101. The Stand features outdoor seating and vegan/international cuisine.

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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