

# OCAPA E-Alert July 2005



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## Good News for the Animals!

### ***Major Clothing Retailers Pledge Not to Use Australian Wool***

Mega-retailer American Eagle Outfitters joined Timberland and Limited Brands (The Limited, Express, Henri Bendel, Victoria’s Secret) as the latest major company to join the retailer-led movement to reform the Australian wool industry. These compassionate companies have all pledged to stop using Australian merino wool until lamb mutilations and live sheep exports stop. For more information about the ongoing PETA campaign, visit <http://www.SaveTheSheep.com>.

### ***Australian State Imposes Ban on Glue Traps for Mice and Rats***

The state of Victoria in Australia plans to outlaw glue traps used to kill mice and rats because of the injury, suffering and distress they cause rodents and other small animals. People who continue to use glue traps will receive a fine.

## ***AB 87 Modified to Provide Basic Protections to Nine "Nuisance" Animal Species***

AB 87 has been modified and now provides basic protections to nine species of animals frequently trapped and poisoned as "nuisance" animals. For more information on the future of this bill, visit <http://www.api4animals.org/529.htm>.

## **Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed**

### ***Help Educate the Sierra Club About Animal Suffering and Abuse in Factory Farming***

The July/August 2005 issue of the Sierra Magazine has a featured section called *The Perfect Fix* about how technology is innovating ways to save the planet. You can read the article at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200507/perfectfix.asp>.

The article states: "Scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture are experimenting with ways to make plastic from chicken feathers, 4 billion pounds of which are generated each year by the U.S. poultry industry. Once cleaned and separated, the feathers can be spun into strong and biodegradable fibers similar to polyethylene and polypropylene."

Apparently, unless an animal with "star quality" (e.g., a dolphin) is being threatened, the Sierra Club doesn't recognize the validity of an animal's suffering and abuse. And while the Sierra Club claims to be against large-scale animal factory farms, here they are promoting a government/industry "solution" that will help the poultry industry make tons more money by turning chicken feathers into consumer products, and appear to "solve" one of the many environmental problems inherent in mega-chicken abuse operations.

Please contact Sierra Magazine at 85 Second St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105. Fax: 415- 977-5794; email: [sierra.letters@sierraclub.org](mailto:sierra.letters@sierraclub.org). Let them know that you find their promotion of turning chicken feathers into plastic products objectionable – and that one sure way environmentalists can address the many problems caused by factory farming/animals raised for food is to adopt a 100% plant-based diet.

### ***Ban the Omak Suicide Race***

Every August, a rodeo takes place in a small Washington town called Omak, which boasts of its main attraction, "The World-Famous Omak Suicide Race." Over a span of four pitch-black nights, riders repeatedly send horses off the edge of "Suicide Hill" with a 120-foot full-gallop start. Next, the horses plunge more than 210 feet down a steep 62-degree angle slope. Racing blindly at breakneck speed, the horses then plunge into the rocky Okanogan River. After a panicked swim of more than a football field in length, the horses face a final, grueling uphill sprint. Rather than call this a suicide race, a more accurate term would be "murder race." Over the last two decades, the ordeal has killed over 20 horses who did not want to die. Additional horses lose their lives during unofficial practice runs, but these deaths are not documented.

Visit <http://www.paws.org/outreach/campaigns/omak.php> to learn more about the Omak Suicide Race and how you can help put a stop to it. Then urge corporate sponsors to withdraw support from the race and ask Washington State officials to ban it before any more horses are killed. Click the link above and scroll down the page to find contact information and sample letters. Major sponsors, such as Wal-Mart and Crown Royal, have already withdrawn their support from the event after learning about its cruelty.

Other corporations - like Pace Picante Sauce, Coors Beer, and Wrangler - are bound to sponsorship of the Suicide Race through national agreements with the Professional Rodeo Cowboy's Association (PRCA). Please urge the PCRA not to sanction the Suicide Race until Omak Stampede, Inc. agrees to cancel the Suicide Race permanently. Visit [http://www.paws.org/outreach/campaigns/omak\\_sponsor.php](http://www.paws.org/outreach/campaigns/omak_sponsor.php) for contact information.

## ***Urge Trader Joe's to Sell Only Cage-Free Eggs***

As you may already know, two of the nation's largest nature foods retailers, Whole Foods Market and Wild Oats Natural Marketplaces, have discontinued sales of eggs from battery-caged hens.

Despite repeated efforts, Trader Joe's – a national grocery chain that competes directly with Whole Foods and Wild Oats – has so far refused to adopt a similar policy and continues to sell eggs from battery-caged hens.

Please contact Trader Joe's and help convince them to discontinue selling eggs from hens housed in inhumane battery cages. Visit the HSUS website to send an e-mail and obtain additional information on this campaign for the chickens: <https://community.hsus.org/campaign/traderjoes/eun87g2r5tndx7?>

## ***Ask Home Depot to Stop Selling Poisons and Glue Traps***

Although the dangers and cruelty of anticoagulant poisons and glue traps are well known, many hardware stores, including Home Depot, routinely sell these products, aiding in the spread of toxic poisons in our environment and threatening our children, pets, and wildlife. In some instances, humane, non-lethal, and environmentally responsible choices for dealing with unwanted rodents are not even offered and buyers are not warned of the risks posed by poisons and glue traps.

Although Animal Protection Institute and others have strongly urged the company not to sell these products and to offer humane, non-lethal rodent control products at all stores as an option for conscientious customers, Home Depot has not yet responded.

Please write to Home Depot and let them know you would like to see dangerous and cruel rat poisons and glue traps removed from the shelves and humane alternatives made available. Contact: Bob Nardelli, CEO, Home Depot, 2455 Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30339.

## ***Support the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS)***

Animal breeders in the U.S. have long been evading government regulation, making it easier to get away with skirting animal protection laws. Currently, breeders that sell directly to the public are not regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which is responsible for enforcing the federal Animal Welfare Act. With the pervasive use of the Internet to sell animals across state lines, there is no way for buyers to know where their animals came from, or under what conditions they were kept. The reality is that many animals sold in this manner come from puppy mills, mass breeding facilities known for their inhumane, filthy conditions and, consequently, the sick dogs they produce.

The Pet Animal Welfare Statute, or PAWS, addresses this growing problem. Introduced in the Senate by Senators Rick Santorum and Richard Durbin as **S. 1139** and in the House by Representatives Sam Farr and Jim Gerlach as **H.R. 2669**, PAWS requires breeders who sell directly to the public and raise seven or more litters of dogs or cats each year to be licensed by the USDA.

When passed, PAWS will: Close a loophole that exempts those that sell over the Internet and through newspaper ads from the minimum standards of care required by the Animal Welfare Act; regulate non-breeding dealers, importers and Internet sellers who sell more than 25 dogs or cats per year; strengthen the USDA's enforcement authority; assure USDA access to source records of persons who acquire dogs for resale; and expand the USDA's authority to seek injunctions against unlicensed dog and cat dealers.

Please contact your senators and representatives and urge them to support PAWS (Senate bill S.1139 and House of Representatives bill H.R.2669). Explain how this bill will help protect cats, dogs and consumers by requiring breeders who sell these animals commercially to be licensed and thereby meet fundamental standards of animal care. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

## Recent OCPA Activities

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

Sponsored by FARM, the Animal Rights 2005 National Conference was held on July 7-11<sup>th</sup> at the Westin LAX in Los Angeles. The conference featured workshops, exhibits, networking receptions, plenaries, vegan food and activities for those interested in the animal rights movement. Visit <http://www.arconference.org/photos5/> to view photos from AR2005.

The demonstration sponsored by Stop Animal Exploitation Now (SAEN), Last Chance for Animals and other local animal rights activists held at UCLA on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> experienced a good turnout. For additional information about the University of California laboratories' ongoing participation in vivisection and related animal abuse, visit <http://www.all-creatures.org/saen/>.

### ***Elephant Ride Demonstration at the Orange County Fair, July 9***

The elephant ride demonstration against *Have Trunk Will Travel* at the Orange County Fair on July 9<sup>th</sup> was successful. Unfortunately, OC Fair management went back on their word to us during our recent meeting in which they'd said they would provide us with an area just outside of the elephant ride to set up our information distribution table. When we submitted our formal application (along with the required CHP permit), they instead assigned us to a "designated free speech area" outside of the actual fair area! If we had consented to that, we would not have been able to reach people who would actually be purchasing tickets for the elephant ride.

Instead, we decided to attend the fair as ticket holders on the opening day of the fair, July 9<sup>th</sup>. We wore t-shirts with bold messages about elephant rides; walked around the elephant ride wearing our t-shirts; and tried to educate people about the cruelty of the rides and discourage them from riding the elephants. Several people asked us for flyers and several people decided against going on the elephant ride. We will repeat this effort on the closing day of the fair, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

### ***Wet Seal Demonstration – July 20 in Costa Mesa***

PETA is planning a demonstration at the upcoming Wet Seal Annual Meeting in Costa Mesa on Wednesday, July 20 at 9:00 a.m.

PETA has repeatedly contacted Wet Seal trying to urge them to stop supporting the bloody fur trade by selling clothing with fur and fur trim. So far, Wet Seal refuses to adopt a fur-free policy.

Please join other activists for this important event on Wednesday, July 20, at 9:00 a.m. Location: Westin South Coast Plaza, 686 Anton Boulevard in Costa Mesa across from South Coast Plaza. Please plan to meet in the parking lot at the entrance on Anton Boulevard. Please dress in business wear or business casual attire. PETA will provide leaflets and posters. For more information about this campaign, visit <http://www.WetSealSucks.com>.

### ***Ringling Bros. Circus Demonstrations – July 20-24 at the Los Angeles Staples Center and July 27 at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim***

Last Chance for Animals and other activists in Los Angeles will meet at the Staples Center (1111 S. Figueroa, Los Angeles) on Wednesday, July 20, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for a demonstration against the Ringling Bros. circus.

Please join them to help educate families and the media about what really happens to animals suffering for human entertainment. LCA will provide leaflets and signs and is looking for volunteers who can leaflet during Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday performances. Contact Robin Van Heertum, Director of Campaigns, at 310-271-6096, extension 31, to volunteer.

Join OCPA, California Lobby for Animal Welfare and other local activists at an opening night demonstration against the Ringling Bros. circus at the Anaheim Pond in Anaheim on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. We will assemble at 5:30 p.m. at the ticket booth/entrance directly opposite Katella. Signs and leaflets will be provided. For more information, contact Alison at [drstanley@charter.net](mailto:drstanley@charter.net) or [information@ocpausa.org](mailto:information@ocpausa.org).

### ***Rodeo/Bullride Demonstration at the Orange County Fair, July 30-31***

OCPA will also 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 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., and at the Fiesta Del Charro bullriding event on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering for this effort, please contact Julie at [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org) with "Volunteer" in the topic line.

### ***Elephant Ride Demonstration at the Orange County Fair, July 31***

Please refer to the Elephant Ride Demonstration write-up in this e-alert under *Recent OCPA Activities*. OCPA will attend the OC Fair on closing day, Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> in an effort to educate more people about the cruelty of elephant rides.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Alison at [information@ocpausa.org](mailto: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.

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## **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](mailto:donations@ocpausa.org) or [subscription@ocpausa.org](mailto:subscription@ocpausa.org) for additional information.

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