

# OCPA E-Alert July 2006



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- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. at The Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach
- Annual Write-In and Member Get-Together – Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. in Orange
- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual L.A. Tofu Festival – August 12-13<sup>th</sup> Downtown L.A.
- AR2006 National Conference – August 10-14<sup>th</sup>, Washington, DC

## Good News for the Animals!

### ***NBA Goes Leather-Free***

Beginning with its 2006/2007 season, the National Basketball Association (NBA) is opting to permanently bench leather balls in favor of better-performing, cruelty-free synthetic basketballs, like those already in use by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Women's National Basketball Association.

Spalding Sports carries synthetic basketballs as well as volleyballs, soccerballs and footballs. For more information, visit <http://www.CowsAreCool.com>.

### ***Notorious Class B Dealer Sentenced in Federal Court***

The largest USDA-licensed Class B animal dealer and pet theft ring operator was sentenced in federal court to three years probation and six months home detention following his guilty plea in August 2006 to felony charges of conspiracy to launder money in an operation involving the sale of dogs and cats to research laboratories. Baird's wife, Patsy, was sentenced to two years probation for misprision of felony mail fraud. The Baird's criminal fines were \$10,000.

The case against Baird comprised the largest multi-agency investigation of animal abuse in U.S. history. According to Chris DeRose, Last Chance for Animal's president, this case has set a precedent for future prosecutions against violators of the Animal Welfare Act. Now that Baird has been successfully prosecuted and is a convicted felon, prosecuting future abusers will be much easier.

### ***Bill Introduced to Ban Foie Gras in New Jersey***

A bill was recently introduced that bans the production of foie gras in New Jersey, making it the seventh state to contemplate outlawing the force-feeding of ducks and geese in order to sell their enlarged, diseased livers. In 2004, California became the first state to pass legislation in banning foie gras. Other bills to ban foie gras are currently being considered in Hawaii, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts and Washington states.

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

### ***Urge House Subcommittee Members to Support the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (AHSPA) – Immediate Action Needed***

The House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection is preparing to review the AHSPA in a hearing scheduled for Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

If the AHSPA passes, the slaughter of horses for human consumption and the domestic and international transport of live horses or horseflesh for the same purpose will be outlawed in the U.S. Every year, more than 90,000 horses are either killed in one of three foreign-owned slaughterhouses in Texas and Illinois or shipped to Canada or Mexico for slaughter. Polls indicate that the vast majority of Americans want the slaughter of horses for human consumption banned.

Please follow this link to take immediate action and urge members of the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection to support the AHSPA as it is written:

<http://ga0.org/campaign/HorseSlaughterActHR503S1915/xnd36d2zt7nn8i?>

### ***Ask Senate Committee to Pass AB 2862 to Protect Animals in Pet Stores***

AB 2862 is a bill that will strengthen state law governing the treatment of animals at pet stores by setting specific standards of care, filling gaps in the law, and providing tools for improved enforcement of pet store laws. This bill has passed the state assembly and is waiting approval in the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee.

Please contact your senator and show your support for this important bill before August 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have witnessed pet shop abuse or substandard care of animals in pet shops, feel free to include your personal experiences and observations in your letters.

To send an e-mail to the senate committee using IDA's alert center, click <http://ga0.org/campaign/CApetStoreBill/xnd36d2qtnk7bb?>. Or visit the OCPA website at <http://ocpausa.org/legislation> for your senator contact information.

### ***Urge Assembly to Vote for SB 1578, Dog Anti-Chaining Bill***

SB 1578, a bill that will ban dog chaining as the primary means of confinement, will be up for a vote in the Assembly Appropriations Committee in early August.

To send an e-mail to the Assembly Appropriations Committee members using IDA's alert center, click <http://ga0.org/campaign/BanDogChainingHouseBill/xnd36d2ptn8bx3?>. Or visit the OCPA website at <http://ocpausa.org/legislation> for your assemblymember contact information.

## Recent OCPA Activities

### ***Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 p.m. at Avanti Café in Costa Mesa***

The Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club met on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Avanti Café in Costa Mesa near Mother's.

This month's luncheon participants enjoyed the veggie fare at Avanti, as well as hearing a speaker discuss the topic of health.

## Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

### ***OC Fair Rodeo and Elephant Ride Tabling – July***

We have been tabling at the Orange County Fair throughout the month of July, distributing literature and enlightening the public about the cruelty of the business of the elephant rides and the rodeo, as well as pony rides, the petting zoo, farmed animals and other animal exhibits or forms of animal "entertainment."

If you are interested in volunteering to table at the OC Fair between now and the time the fair ends on July 30<sup>th</sup>, contact Julie at [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org) for more information. Free parking passes are also available.

### ***Ringling Brothers Circus Demonstration – Arrowhead Pond, Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> 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."

Join us on opening weekend, Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Extra signs will be provided.

Contact Charlotte for additional information at 714-724-9114 or [pinkslipgirl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pinkslipgirl@sbcglobal.net).

### ***Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. at The Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach***

Our next veggie/vegan luncheon will be held on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at The Bodhi Tree, 501 Main St, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; phone (714) 969-9500.

Everyone – vegetarian, vegan or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch and we hope to see you there!

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

### ***Annual Write-In and Member Get-Together – Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**Please note:** If you attempted to contact us via e-mail, we were temporarily experiencing technical difficulties. Please resubmit your e-mail to us at [information@ocpausa.org](mailto:information@ocpausa.org) to RSVP for the party.

### ***11<sup>th</sup> Annual L.A. Tofu Festival – August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Downtown L.A.***

On August 12-13<sup>th</sup>, House Foods America Corporation will sponsor the 11<sup>th</sup> annual L.A. Tofu festival in downtown Los Angeles on San Pedro Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets.

Over 100 tofu and soy dishes prepared by area restaurants will be featured, as well as live entertainment, a celebrity chef cooking demonstration stage, and a state-of-the-art sports and games pavilion.

General admission is \$8 and dishes range from \$1 to \$8 per serving. For more information, visit the Tofu Festival website at <http://www.tofufest.org>.

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

It's not too late to register for the AR2006 National Conference held on August 10-14<sup>th</sup> 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/>.

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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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