

OCPA E-Alert July / August 2011



In This OCPA E-Alert

Good News for the Animals

- UK Bans Wild Animal Circuses
- Bills to Criminalize Factory Farm Farming Die
- United Egg Producers Agrees to Support Federal Legislation to Protect Hens
- North Carolina Grand Jury Indicts Four PLRS Employees for Felony Charges of Cruelty to Animals
- Good News for Sharks in Chile and California
- Oregon Scores Major Victories for Animals
- Measure Passes for International Whaling Commission Transparency
- Vegan Outreach Reaches 15 Million Booklet Distribution
- Environmental Working Group and Chef Mario Batali Promote Meatless Mondays
- Allergan to Reduce Animal Tests
- Dog Fighters Convicted of Animal Cruelty
- San Diego County Moves to Curb Cockfighting
- Victory for U.S. Wild Horses
- USDA Files Charges Against Cole Brothers Circus
- Four California Humane Societies Call for Ringling Circus Boycott
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums Adopts New Policy that Bans Elephant Bullhooks
- CNN Show Highlights Heart Benefits of Vegan Diet
- L.A. Mayor Signs Ordinance to ban Live Animal Sales on Public Streets
- Dr. Michael Greger Launches NutritionFacts.org

Recent OCPA Activities

- VegFest Colorado – July 2nd in Denver, CO
- Greatest Circus Protest on Earth – July 20th in L.A.
- AR 2011 – July 21-25th in L.A.
- Ringling Brothers Circus Demonstrations – Various Dates in July and August, Orange County
- OCPA / Mercy for Animals Billboard Launch – September in Ft. Collins, CO
- New West Fest – August 13-14th in Ft. Collins, CO

Action Items

- Ask U.S. Representative to Support the Pet Safety and Protection Act of 2011 (HR 2256)
- Urge U.S. Senators to Pass the Captive Primate Safety Act (S 1324)
- Ask Governor Brown to Sign SB 917 Into Law (Increase Jail Time for Animal Neglecters)

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- Portland VegFest – September 17-18th in Portland, OR
- Children's Art Class to Support OCPA – Monday, September 19th in Costa Mesa
- Puppy Mill Awareness Day – Saturday, September 24th in L.A.
- World Farm Animals Day – October 2nd – Various Events and Locations
- Healthy Lifestyle Expo 2011 – October 14-16th in Woodland Hills, CA
- Heritage Festival – Saturday, October 15th in Placentia, CA
- World Go Vegan Week – October 24-31st – Various Events and Locations

Join OCPA's meetup site at: <http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/> for the latest details on local OCPA demonstrations and other animal-related events.

Good News for the Animals!

UK Bans Wild Animal Circuses

In late June, British MPs unanimously backed a ban on wild animal circuses. The UK follows China, where such a ban was declared by the government earlier this year.

Bills to Criminalize Factory Farm Filming Die

After bills that would have criminalized the filming of cruelty to animals on factory farms died in Florida and Minnesota, similar bills in Iowa and New York also officially died despite aggressive attempts by the meat industry to push them through. This victory for the animals will protect undercover investigative work that is crucial to exposing cruelty.

United Egg Producers Agrees to Support Federal Legislation to Protect Hens

The United Egg Producers (the trade group in charge of defending the worst of the worst abuses of farmed animals) agreed to support federal legislation to protect hens. This agreement could result in a complete makeover of the U.S. egg industry and improve the treatment of the 280 million laying hens used each year in U.S. egg production. And this is the first federal legislation in U.S. history that protects animals on farms, the first to protect farmed birds, and the first animal welfare legislation affecting farmed animals in more than 30 years.

North Carolina Grand Jury Indicts Four PLRS Employees for Felony Charges of Cruelty to Animals

A North Carolina grand jury indicted four individuals who worked for Professional Laboratory and Research Services (PLRS) on 14 felony charges of cruelty to animals. This case marks the first time in U.S. history that laboratory workers have faced felony cruelty charges for their abuse and neglect of animals in a laboratory.

Good News for Sharks in Chile and California

In July, Chile's Congress voted unanimously to ban shark finning – where a shark's fins are sliced off and the shark is thrown back into the water to suffocate or bleed to death. And in late August, the shark fin ban bill (AB 376) passed the California Senate Appropriations Committee (with the full senate expected to vote on the bill this month). This legislation will help protect shark populations and ocean health in Chile, off the coast of California, and beyond.

Oregon Scores Major Victories for Animals

Major victories for animals in Oregon include legislation to protect pets in domestic violence situations; a ban on the possession, sale and distribution of shark fins; and legislation to make it easier to care for animals who are the victims of cruelty. Several harmful bills that posed serious threats were defeated (bills that would have allowed hound hunting of cougars and a measure that promoted killing sea lions in Oregon's rivers).

Measure Passes for International Whaling Commission Transparency

Japan's annual whale slaughter in the Southern Ocean took a huge blow when vote buying at the International Whaling Commission recently became history. Countries like Japan can no longer bribe poorer countries to support their pro-whaling stance. The U.S. delegation did the right thing by supporting this measure.

Vegan Outreach Reaches 15 Million Booklet Distribution

Vegan Outreach (<http://www.veganoutreach.org>) reached a milestone announcing the distribution of 15 million booklets since its inception. Its booklets help highlight the cruelty behind animals raised for food and promote a cruelty-free, veg*n diet instead.

Environmental Working Group and Chef Mario Batali Promote Meatless Mondays

How wonderful to see the connection between animal farming/meat and environmental destruction finally enter the mainstream! In yet another example, the Environmental Working Group (<http://www.ewg.org>) and renowned chef, Mario Batali, have been promoting and soliciting pledges to join the Meatless Monday campaign (<http://www.meatlessmonday.com>).

Allergan to Reduce Animal Tests

The makers of Botox, an anti-wrinkle injection that is also used for other medical conditions, have long been criticized for their cruel use of animals in safety testing. Allergan has now announced it received approval from the FDA to use a new test method that could reduce animal experiments by 95 percent.

Dog Fighters Convicted of Animal Cruelty

On July 22nd, five additional defendants were convicted of animal cruelty and sentenced to time behind bars in connection with a massive dog fighting raid conducted in July 2009. The operation spanned eight states – Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Nebraska and Mississippi – and resulted in the rescue of more than 500 Pit Bulls.

San Diego County Moves to Curb Cockfighting

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors recently voted to limit the number of roosters that may be kept on a given property, and to require that the birds must be kept in humane conditions. Even though cockfighting was banned in California in 1939 and is a felony in 39 states, in California, the first offence is only a misdemeanor. As a result, cockfighters from surrounding states flock to California to fight roosters. A final vote is scheduled for September 13th – and if approved, these new rules in San Diego County will make law enforcement more effective – and help eliminate cockfighting.

Victory for U.S. Wild Horses

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has backed off its plan to castrate hundreds of wild stallions in southwestern Wyoming. The agency had planned to round up nearly 900 wild horses from the White Mountain/Little Colorado herd management areas, putting the majority of the horses up for adoption or sale, or send them to long-term holding sites.

USDA Files Charges Against Cole Brothers Circus

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) filed formal charges against the Cole Brothers Circus for multiple violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including those involving the elephants Tina and Jewel.

Four California Humane Societies Call for Ringling Circus Boycott

The Marin Humane Society, East Bay SPCA, Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, and the Sacramento SPCA called for a boycott of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, citing the company's routine abuse of animals.

Association of Zoos and Aquariums Adopts New Policy that Bans Elephant Bullhooks

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) recently adopted a new policy requiring all AZA-accredited facilities to switch to protected-contact elephant management. This means no more use of abusive bullhooks – sharp, steel-tipped weapons that resemble a fireplace poker – for any zoo that wants to be accredited by the AZA. Although circuses are not AZA-accredited and not subject to the new policy, the AZA's recognition of the enormous benefits of protected contact – for both elephants and people – is of huge significance in the ongoing battle to end the cruel use of bullhooks on any elephant.

CNN Show Highlights Heart Benefits of Vegan Diet

On Sunday, August 28th, CNN aired a special (<http://www.vegsource.com/news/2011/08/dr-essesltyn-on-sanjay-guptas-cnn-special-video.html>) on heart disease featuring Caldwell Esselstyn, MD, and his heart-disease reversing diet. His appearance created a huge interest in the diet proven to reverse heart disease. The show follows two people whom discover they have serious heart disease – one who agrees to try the diet and another who refuses. Bill Clinton is also featured on the program.

L.A. Mayor Signs Ordinance to ban Live Animal Sales on Public Streets

Although it is illegal to sell live animals on public streets and sidewalks in Los Angeles, it is still a major problem. To combat this, council members Jan Perry and Tony Cardenas proposed an ordinance that would make it illegal for any person to purchase, offer to purchase, barter, or receive without cost, live animals on any street, sidewalk or other public place in the City of Los Angeles. The council voted to pass the ordinance in August and Mayor Villarigosa then signed it into law; the ordinance takes effect on September 25, 2011.

Dr. Michael Greger Launches NutritionFacts.org

A year in the making, <http://www.NutritionFacts.org> is a labor of love featuring all the videos from all Dr. Michael Greger's past Latest in Clinical Nutrition DVDs split into hundreds of bite-sized topical segments that can be searched and shared for free. Dr. Greger is also uploading a new video every day to the site, so check out his site and subscribe to the daily video feed for the latest on plant-based nutrition.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Ask U.S. Representative to Support the Pet Safety and Protection Act of 2011 (HR 2256)

The Pet Safety and Protection Act of 2011, H.R. 2256, introduced by Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), prohibits random-source Class B dealers from selling dogs and cats for use in research. An abuse-ridden system allows a small number of unscrupulous dealers to supply non-purpose-bred dogs and cats for use in research. So-called random source Class B dealers and their middleman cohorts, called "bunchers," acquire the dogs and cats they sell from a variety of sources. They routinely violate the Animal Welfare Act, obtain animals through fraud, deception, and outright theft (many are stolen companion animals), and falsify their records. They keep the animals in horrendous conditions.

The USDA spends countless taxpayer dollars each year unsuccessfully trying to regulate Class B dealers and have acknowledged that they can't guarantee that dogs and cats are not being illegally acquired for use in experiments.

Please contact your representative and urge him/her to co-sponsor the Pet Safety and Protection Act of 2011. For legislator contact information, visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> or visit AAVS Activate for Animals page to send an automated e-mail and/or letter (http://www.aavs.org/c.bkLTKfOSLhK6E/b.7536439/k.8609/Dogs_and_Cats_Need_Our_Help/siteapps/advocacy/ActionItem.aspx?auid=8593502).

Urge U.S. Senators to Pass the Captive Primate Safety Act (S 1324)

U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), David Vitter (R-La.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) recently introduced the Captive Primate Safety Act (S. 1324), which prohibits interstate commerce in monkeys, apes and other primates in the exotic "pet" trade.

The commercial trade in primates involves tremendous suffering and grave dangers to human health and safety. These innocent animals are often confined in small cages and have their teeth or fingernails extracted. We can't allow animals to be mutilated in the name of companionship. Nonhuman primates also pose disease risks, including transmission of Ebola, tuberculosis and herpes B. Even though nearly half of the states already prohibit private possession of these wild animals as "pets," primates are easily obtained over the Internet and through out-of-state dealers and auctions, making federal legislation necessary to support the efforts of state law enforcement.

Please visit Born Free's Action Alert site to ask your two U.S. senators to co-sponsor the bill today (<https://secure3.convio.net/bfusa/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=635&JServSessionIdr004=flgqi5nq5.app331a>).

Ask Governor Brown to Sign SB 917 into Law (Increase Jail Time for Animal Neglecters)

California Senate Bill 917 will increase the amount of jail time a judge may issue to a person convicted of animal neglect. This ASPCA-supported bill has already passed both chambers of the California Legislature and is now on Governor Brown's desk, awaiting his approval.

Animal neglect is a form of cruelty that is less obvious, but more common than the beatings, fights and acts of torture that tend to grab headlines. Neglect causes extreme, prolonged suffering—sometimes even death—and is just as serious an offense as intentional physical cruelty.

As you may recall, similar legislation passed last year, but then-Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed it. Let's make sure Governor Brown doesn't make the same bad decision. Please be the animals' voice—email Governor Brown to urge him to sign SB 917 into law (visit:

<http://click.aspcemail.org/?qs=83994c42c71c6eeb59941392339e55d1efed3736c4637b642d0fd375f05f61db>).

Recent OCPA Activities

VegFest Colorado – July 2nd in Denver, CO

On July 2nd, OCPA board members Tina Locklear and Charlotte Cressey tabled at VegFest Colorado in Denver. Key speakers included Karen Davis of United Poultry Concerns, Colleen Patrick Goudreau of Compassionate Cooks, and Howard Lyman "The Mad Cowboy."

Charlotte also led attendees of VegFest in an uplifting yoga session, sending love to animals everywhere.

Greatest Circus Protest on Earth – July 20th in L.A.

History was made at this year's opening night demonstration against Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on July 20th. Nearly 500 protestors assembled for the biggest circus protest on earth holding graphic signs and large, colorful banners and wearing costumes to help educate circus customers about the horrors that animals endure for their "entertainment."

AR 2011 – July 21-25th in L.A.

OCPA had a strong presence at FARM's annual Animal Rights conference 2011 held at the Westin LAX between July 21st and 25th. We held a pre-conference event which included board member Charlotte Cressey's presentation, *From Separation to Wholeness*, and founder/board member Ava Park led attendees in a powerful ceremony to transmute their anger into positive action and compassion for animals. We also distributed information at our table in the exhibit hall and our board members were featured as speakers at the conference. We will post the audio recordings of our sessions on our website sometime this fall.

To view pictures and other information about the event, visit OCPA's meetup site (<http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA>), or FARM's website at <http://arconference.org/>.

Ringling Brothers Circus Demonstrations – Various Dates in July and August, Orange County

OCPA members and other AR groups assembled at the Honda Center in Anaheim to protest against the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus shows held there in July and August.

OCPA / Mercy for Animals Billboard Launch – September in Ft. Collins, CO

OCPA is sponsoring a vegan billboard in Fort Collins. You've probably seen Mercy for Animals' popular "Why Love One but Eat the Other?" leaflet featuring a puppy and piglet. This powerful image has successfully brought the message of compassion to cities all over the country and now OCPA is bringing

it to Fort Collins, CO on a prominent billboard now on display. Visit <http://www.mfablog.org/2011/09/new-mfa-billboard-urges-colorado-residents-to-go-veg.html> to view the billboard.

New West Fest – August 13-14th in Ft. Collins, CO

OCPA was featured as one of 250 booths at the New West Fest, arts and music festival held in Fort Collins, Colorado on August 13th and 14th. We distributed information about veganism and animal rights to crowds at the New West Fest. For more information, visit: <http://www.downtownfortcollins.com/dba.php/nwfest/>.

OCPA has been bringing its message of compassion for all beings and positive action to Colorado. Board member Charlotte Cressey has been involved in educational events this past year in Colorado including leafleting, tabling, vegan food sampling, and giving presentations about veganism. We have supported a student-run animal rights group at the University by providing funding and leaflets. On Earth Day, Charlotte spoke at Colorado State University Fort Collins. Other speakers included Dr. Marc Bekoff and Keith McHenry.

Note: Charlotte will also speak about the environmental impact of animal products and benefits of vegan diets at the Rocky Mountain Sustainable Living Fair in Colorado on September 18th.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Check out OCPA's Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Orange-County-People-for-Animals-OCPA/72044259393?v=wall&viewas=612567757>) and meetup site (<http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA>) often for the latest details on local OCPA demonstrations and other animal-related events.

Portland VegFest – September 17-18th in Portland, OR

If you're in the area, join the fun at the Portland VegFest held at the Oregon Convention Center on September 17th and 18th. This year's festival will include hundred of free food samples, engaging speakers and chef demos, over 100 veg-savvy exhibitors, restaurants, family activities, and teen activities too.

Board member, Pamela Kurp, is volunteering at this event to help spread the word about the health benefits of a plant-based diet.

For more information about this event, visit Northwest Veg's site at <http://nwveg.org/vegfest>.

Children's Art Class to Support OCPA – Monday, September 19th in Costa Mesa

Victoria Rivett, director of Savoy Academy, is featuring art classes for children at the Orange County Fine Arts Studio in Costa Mesa. Classes include materials and instruction, and will center on a central theme such as animal welfare, ocean preservation or environmental protection. For the class held on Monday, September 19th between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m., Victoria is generously donating a portion of fee proceeds to OCPA.

For registration information and to help support this educational outreach, visit: <http://www.savoyacademy.com/Classes.html>.

Puppy Mill Awareness Day – Saturday, September 24th in L.A.

Join Last Chance for Animals for Puppy Mill Awareness Day (PMAD) in Los Angeles, CA on Saturday, September 24th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Meet at West Hollywood Park, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. in West Hollywood, CA and carpool to Littlerock, CA (about 60 miles Northeast of West Hollywood) to protest at the actual puppy mills. See firsthand where a lot of the puppies being sold in Los Angeles pet stores come from, including some of the stores LCA and others have been protesting against. Signs will be provided along with water and vegan snacks.

World Farm Animals Day – October 2nd – Various Events and Locations

Held every year in honor of Gandhi's birthday, World Farm Animals Day is a great opportunity to expose the needless death and suffering of 58 billion animals annually. In addition to promoting a vegan lifestyle, this year's observance revealed the ways that animal agribusiness manipulates the government, institutions, and a well-meaning public in order to sell more cruel products.

Visit <http://www.wfad.org/> to learn more about this great annual event. And visit our meetup site (<http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA>) for more information about OCPA's local event(s) (including leafletting in Laguna Beach) and how you can participate to help spread the word of veganism throughout SoCal.

Other activities on or around this date include Farm Sanctuary's <http://www.walkforfarmanimals.org/>, an event that raises vital funds for Farm Sanctuary's lifesaving work while educating the public about the devastating impacts of factory farming.

Healthy Lifestyle Expo 2011 – October 14th – 16th in Woodland Hills, CA

Sponsored by VegSource, the healthy Lifestyle Expo 2011 will occur between Friday and Sunday, October 14-16th at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills.

Featuring eye-opening presentations from leading health experts, attendees learned how to prevent and reverse heart disease, achieve permanent weight loss, protect themselves against breast, prostate and colon cancer, and make the changes in life they've always wanted.

This year's speakers included: Neal Barnard, MD, Joel Fuhrman, MD, Jeff Novick, MS, RD, Rip Esselstyn, John Robbins, John McDougall, MD, and several others. For more information about this event, visit: <http://healthylifestyleexpo.com/>.

Heritage Festival – Saturday, October 15th in Placentia, CA

On October 15th, the City of Placentia will host the 47th Annual Heritage Festival and Parade. The parade will feature over 200 parade entries including bands, marching groups, VIPs, clowns, and non-profit organizations.

The Heritage Festival will be held at Tri-City Park located on Kraemer Boulevard at Golden Avenue. The festival will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with entertainment featuring DJ music, roving entertainers and a variety of "Specialty Areas." The Game Area will showcase jugglers, mimes, clowns, giant inflatable activities, slot car racing, face painting and a balloon animal artist. The Food Court Area will serve a variety of taste tempting treats including Mexican food, pizza, baked goods, kettle corn, Hawaiian food, ice cream, desserts and much more. The Chamber of Commerce Business Expo Area will showcase local business with opportunities to meet and gain knowledge from local entrepreneurs. The Craft Fair Area will have over 40 vendors stocked with plenty of handmade items for purchase. The Non-Profit Area will highlight local organizations that will be distributing information about the services that they provide for our city. The Car Show Area will feature over 200 antique, custom, hot rod and classic cars on display. Boats will also be displayed. This is one of the largest car shows in the area complete with specialty car show vendors, cool car show t-shirts, opportunity drawings, and entertainment.

OCPA is tabling at this event – so stop on by to say hello and/or contact us at information@ocpausa.org if you'd like to volunteer. For more information about the Heritage Festival, visit <http://www.placentia.org/index.aspx?NID=357>.

World Go Vegan Week – October 24th – 31st – Various Events and Locations

The sixth annual World Go Vegan Week will be held between October 24th and 31st. This event is an international campaign to promote a vegan diet as a compassionate, sustainable and healthy way of eating and living. Being vegan is getting easier with restaurants across the U.S. offering a variety of vegan options. From pizza places and hot dog stands to upscale bistros, vegan options are popping up everywhere and dining out has never been easier or more delicious for vegans.

For more information about this event, visit: <http://worldgoveganweek.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.

To subscribe to this list or submit an e-mail address change, e-mail pamela.kurp@ocpausa.org with the word "ADD" or "CHANGE" in the subject line. To unsubscribe, include the word "REMOVE" in the subject line.