

OCPA E-Alert

August / September 2008



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- Urge Governor Schwarzenegger to Veto AB 815 and AB 2427
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Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, September 7th at 1:00 p.m. Native Foods in Aliso Viejo
- Atheist Alliance International (AAI) Convention – Thursday, September 25th through Sunday, September 28th in Long Beach
- "Skin Trade" Cabaret Fundraiser – Sunday, September 28th at 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in L.A.
- World Farm Animals Day – October 2nd
- 11th Annual Caring for Creation Conference – Saturday, October 25th 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Newport Beach

Special Note: If you would like to receive occasional email notifications of these special outreach and volunteer opportunities, please respond to julie.meskell@ocpausa.org to have your email address included in a separate contact list. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you out and about this year on behalf of the animals.

Good News for the Animals!

Austrian Animal Rights Activists Set Free

The news so many have been waiting to hear for the last three months - Christof, Elmar, Felix, Jan, Jürgen, Kevin, Leo, Martin and Sabine (the remaining nine Austrian activists) have finally been set free!

Since the end of May, the nine activists (Christian had been released earlier) have been charged with "Forming a Criminal Organization," under 278a StGB of the Austrian penal code. The Appellate court explained that there is still a danger of committing further crimes, but the pre-trial detention cannot be upheld if the expected penalties are in no relation to it. The second reason for detention, danger of suppression of evidence, is by law limited to two months, which have long expired.

Thanks to anyone who wrote, petitioned or demonstrated for the release of these activists. Visit <http://www.austriasolidarity.com> for more information.

New Jersey Supreme Court Rules Factory Farm Practices Inhumane

The New Jersey Supreme Court unanimously voted to require more humane treatment of animals on factory farms. The court ruled that widespread factory farm practices, such as "tail-docking" or cutting off the tails of cattle, cannot be considered "humane" simply because they are considered "routine." The court's decision means these factory farm abuses will be reassessed, and if they are considered inhumane, they will be banned. The decision, which is the first of its kind, could cause a domino-effect across the U.S.

Cruel Pig Lab Cancelled

A cruel pig lab that was scheduled to take place at a surgical meeting in Colorado recently was then canceled. Due to so many voices of opposition, the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists felt enough pressure to cancel that portion of the event.

Covidien, the healthcare product company conducting the pig lab, intended to use live pigs in a marketing demonstration of its surgical tools. However, thanks to your phone calls and e-mails, this lab has been canceled and a strong message has been sent to those in the medical field that the public will not tolerate such treatment of animals.

Two New Animal Protection Bills Introduced

The U.S. House Judiciary Committee held a congressional hearing in late July on two brand new, animal protection bills: one to stop the slaughter of horses for human consumption, and one to track animal cruelty crimes.

Similar to the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503/S. 311), the new **Conyers-Burton Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2008** (H.R. 6598) will prohibit the sale and transport of horses to be slaughtered for human consumption, including horses exported over long distances to Mexico and Canada.

The Animal Cruelty Statistics Act of 2008 (H.R. 6597) will require the Department of Justice to make the collection of data on all animal cruelty crimes a priority. Tracking animal abuse, which often is associated with family violence and other crimes, will boost efforts to interrupt the violence cycle. With this information, law enforcement and others can intervene earlier and more effectively to protect animals, children, and families.

Please take action by visiting HSUS action pages and urging your representative to [track animal cruelty crimes](#) and [protect horses](#).

Spay and Neuter Clinic Opens in South Orange County

An affordable spay and neuter clinic opened in mid-July in south Orange County. Visit <http://www.mypetsdr.com> for more information. And to help spread the word, feel free to distribute and display the flier located at <http://www.affordablespays.com> to help make this clinic a success.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge Governor Schwarzenegger to Veto AB 815 and AB 2427

If you live in California, please **contact Governor Schwarzenegger today to oppose AB 815 and AB 2427.**

AB 815 will take away the rights currently afforded to cities and counties in California to enact local wildlife-related laws specific to their communities. If this bill is signed into law, the state Fish and Game agency will become essentially the only entity with the power to adopt laws or regulations regarding the taking of fish and game in California. Under the new legislation, an ordinance could only be adopted if it meets extremely strict standards, but the standards themselves are not laid out in the law. As a result, it is difficult to predict how little power will remain in the hands of local governments to address local issues.

Animal protection groups are concerned that AB 815 will expand the powers of Fish and Game at the expense of city and county government, and that it will negatively impact these governments' ability to protect their citizens, companion animals, and wildlife.

Because this bill already has passed the California Assembly and soon will be considered by the Senate, please take action today and ask your state senator to oppose AB 815 and protect wildlife in your community. Visit API/Born Free's action page at <http://action.bornfreeusa.org/site/PageServer> or for legislator contact information, visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm>.

If **AB 2427** is adopted, this broadly-written legislation will prevent counties and cities from passing local laws that restrict procedures or acts that are within the "scope of practice" of the healing arts, including animal welfare laws that they deem necessary to protect animals from inhumane practices.

In particular, AB 2427 is targeted toward preventing the future adoption of ordinances like West Hollywood's, that bans veterinarians from declawing cats. AB 2427 could also affect restrictions on tail docking, ear cropping, and similar cruel procedures.

Visit API/Born Free's [action page](#) or for legislator contact information, visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm>.

Help Protect Dogs in Colorado Against Cruel Snares and Traps

Your help is needed now to protect animals in Colorado. El Paso County plans to pay the U.S. Department of Agriculture to set cruel snares and steel-jaw leghold traps—instruments of torture that mercilessly maim and kill animals—to capture homeless and roaming dogs. In a desperate attempt to free themselves from the excruciating pain that these barbaric devices cause, animals often mutilate themselves, break bones, dislocate joints, and slowly choke to death. Traps are indiscriminate, and it's impossible to ensure that cherished companion animals, wildlife (including protected species), and children do not fall victim to the grip of these deadly, unyielding traps.

The use of these medieval torture devices cannot be justified under any circumstances. No animal—wild or domestic—should be made to suffer and potentially die in these horrible traps when humane alternatives are widely used and commercially available. Animals can be easily and humanely captured with live traps.

Please visit [IDA's action page](#) to send a quick e-mail to the county commissioners.

Support Local Activist's Freedom-of-Speech Lawsuit Against Sea World

A local activist has filed a lawsuit against Sea World in Federal Court for violating protesters free speech rights for over 21 years.

This brave activist is looking to raise funds to cover additional expenses for the case. If the case is won, these funds will be returned.

Contact: Defend Animals Coalition, Alfredo Kuba, President; phone: 650-965-8705; e-mail: defendanimals@gmail.com.

Recent OCPA Activities

Ringling Bros. Demonstrations – Wednesday, July 23rd through Sunday, July 27th and August 3rd in Anaheim

OCPA made its presence known on July 23rd, opening day of the Ringling Brothers Circus at the Honda Center in Anaheim and returned on Sunday, July 27th to educate circus-goers about the cruelty of the circus.

Activists who had also participated in the Elephant walk from Union Station to the Staples Center drove from L.A. to join OC activists for a total turnout of between 30-40 activists from different organizations such as IDA, OCPA and PETA. Some activists who spoke Spanish were able to reach out to Hispanic attendees. Some held signs and leafleted at the entrance to the Honda Center parking lot off of Katella, while others chanted, held signs and leafleted in the "free speech" area in front of the ticket booths.

One activist brought a portable DVD player and showed the undercover footage of abuse that goes on and the horrible treatment of elephants and other defenseless animals. Circus attendees viewed the video footage and wanted to learn more. Some people said this would be the last time they would go to the circus.

On August 3rd, OCPA members joined Last Chance for Animals to protest the last show of the Ringling Brothers Circus tour. The elephants could be seen in a fenced-in concrete area where they displayed abnormal behavior, such as swaying and rocking that is common with animals held in captivity and indicates psychological distress.

As you know, experts, eyewitnesses, and video footage prove that physical abuse is standard practice for training elephants in circuses. Ringling's trainers have been observed hitting and jabbing elephants, including babies, with sharp steel-tipped rods called "bullhooks." We understand that Ringling causes pain and suffering to animals, but we must share this with others so that they, too, will boycott the circus.

International Climate Change Conference – Saturday, July 26th 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in West Hollywood

Local concerned citizens attended the International Climate Change Conference on Saturday, July 26th, between 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in West Hollywood at the Pacific Design Theater.

This global event brought together climate experts; food and diet experts, humanitarians and interfaith leaders; and new media pioneers in an interactive discussion to address the most urgent crisis of our times.

Speakers at the event included: Dr. Elliott Katz, Director of In Defense of Animals; Howard Lyman, Voice for a Viable Future; Dr. Gabriel Cousens, Spiritual Nutritionist; Dr. Will Tuttle, Best Selling Author of the World Peace Diet. The focus of the conference was on the meat industry and climate change, to unite and save our beautiful and precious planet.

OCPA's "A Cage-Free Affair" – Saturday, July 26th at 5:00 p.m. in Santa Ana

On Saturday, July 26th, Julie and Steve Meskell hosted a joint fundraiser at their home in Lemon Heights for OCPA and Prop 2, The Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act. OCPA is raising awareness about the Californians for Humane Farms campaign to ban cruel crates for millions of egg-laying chickens, pigs, and veal calves in California. With your help, this campaign will culminate in a victory for farm animals on Election Day, November 4th, with a YES vote for Prop 2, The Farm Animal Cruelty Prevention Act.

Attendees helped to raise approximately \$4,300 for the Prop 2 campaign, "A Cage-Free Affair." The silent auction and raffle were held to solely benefit OCPA and were a hit with over 30 prizes. All attendees received a

goody bag that included a reusable shopping bag filled with cruelty-free products. Partygoers also enjoyed a delicious vegan BBQ meal and cocktails poolside with music as the background and a caricature artist. Vegan food was generously donated by Orange County's best vegan restaurants (e.g., Au Lac, Bodhi Tree, and Veggie Grill). Attendees were also treated to a poignant speech by Mr. Paul Shapiro of the HSUS who helped raise an additional \$700 for the campaign at the 11th hour.

On November 4, please remember to vote YES on Prop 2. For more information, visit <http://www.yesonprop2.org>.

OC Fair Demonstrations – Friday, August 1st and Saturday, August 2nd

On Friday evening, August 1st, members of OCPA marched holding posters displaying slogans such as, "Buck the Rodeo," from Native Foods, Costa Mesa, down Bristol Street to Newport Boulevard, where the "Extreme Rodeo" at the Orange County Fair was taking place. We handed out hundreds of fliers protesting the rodeo to passengers in cars as they lined up to enter the fair.

OCPA members returned the next day and evening, August 2nd, to protest both the afternoon and evening bull riding events.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, August 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at The Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach

A small group of OCPA members met for dinner at the Bodhi Tree on Sunday evening, August 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. in Huntington Beach. Most volunteers then attended the Ringling Brothers Circus protest along with Last Chance for Animals.

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

China's Fur Trade Demonstration – Friday, August 8th in L.A./Chinatown

On Friday, August 8th, OCPA members caravanned up to Chinatown on the opening day of the Olympics to protest China's fur trade, led by In Defense of Animals. Participants marched through Chinatown chanting, "Boycott China, Shame on China." A large banner saying, "China Skins Dogs and Cats," was prominently displayed for all to see.

News coverage of the protest was seen on NBC, KTLA, and ABC. Coverage on the protest even made it to youtube.

AR 2008 – August 14th – 18th in Washington, D.C.

More than 900 participants and visitors from throughout the U.S. and six other countries attended the Animal Rights 2008 National Conference, August 14-18th, just outside of Washington, D.C..

An extraordinary 97 speakers from 60 groups presented in 120 sessions, including plenaries, workshops, raps, and campaign reports. Nearly 90 organizations exhibited their literature and merchandise. More than 50 videos of animal abuse and protective actions were screened, including several premieres.

The highlight of the conference was the plenary Saturday night where Paul Watson and Paul Shapiro spoke. Captain Paul Watson of Sea Shepherd engaged the entire room with his first hand account of the Japanese Whalers attack on the Steve Irwin in the international waters off of Antarctica. After accepting the Animal Rights Hall of Fame award presented by FARM, Paul Shapiro of the HSUS (and founder of COK) gave the speech of his life and had the entire room on their feet by the time he left the stage.

Heather Mills provided inspiration to animal advocates around the country by speaking at AR 2008. Heather accepted the Celebrity Animal Activist Award for her leadership, extraordinary advocacy, campaigning, and passionate commitment to the animal liberation movement. The attendees at the Awards Ceremony gave an overwhelming warm reception to Heather when she received the award,

spoke about her various campaigns, and encouraged activists to understand the magnitude of their work and "the power one person can have to make a difference" when acting on and following their convictions. Heather encouraged fellow activists to continue their commitment to the animals and follow their hearts. Heather commented that she in was truly touched by the standing ovation of the audience at the AR2008 National Conference and the interest in her work.

Dina Kourda, OCPA board member, gave two presentations on the plight of the Canadian Harp Seals for HarpSeals.org. The main purpose of the presentation was to re-introduce the group and how it works in conjunction with Sea Shepherd and HSUS, as well as to give the 2008 update. HarpSeals.org is hopeful that there will not be a 2009 Canadian Harp Seal Hunt. The European Parliament (an arm of the European Union) will soon accept "humane killing method" language or strike it to ban the import of Seal Products to the EU. European fashion houses use the pelts from slaughtered baby harp seals for coats and accessories for fashion. The EP is in favor of banning the hunt altogether. Fortunately, France and Italy are among several other countries in favor of banning seal products nationwide. Stay tuned for the good news.

Below are some of Dina's observations from her experience at AR 2008:

1. AR vs. AW (Prop 2)

There are definitely two disciplines of thought when it comes to animals. Prop 2 in California sets the stage for cruelty reform of the largest population of animals in the county. Abolitionists, or those who support AR and their "all or nothing approach," don't think Prop 2 goes far enough and believe we are doing an injustice to the animals if Prop 2 passes where big agri-business benefits financially. Those in support of Prop 2 believe it is a modest approach to gradually better the lives of animals now. Some who support animal welfare see it as a long-term approach and small step toward abolition. No matter what your position is, the entire nation of animal lovers is awaiting the results of this historic election on November 4. One important idea that was repeated over the weekend was that no matter what side you take, please never criticize or gossip about another group's approach, especially to the media.

2. Support of Imprisoned Animal Rights Activists (Austria Solidarity and SHAC 7)

Many animal advocate prisoners have been falsely arrested, are being held without charge, or are imprisoned in the U.S. and around the world. Amnesty International is against the imprisonment of those who try to assert their freedom of expression through social or political activism. Although the Austrian activists were recently released, other prisoners need our help with letters to their captors and letters to them in order to provide support during their imprisonment. Visit <http://austriasolidarity.com> and <http://www.shac.net> for more information.

3. Announcement of U.S. SHAC Offices in 2009

SHAC will have a table at AR 2009 and will have an established office by next year.

Visit FARM's [full report](#) and extensive [photo gallery](#) containing special sections of attendees, events, exhibits, and presenters.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, September 7th at 1:00 p.m. at Native Foods in Aliso Viejo

Join us at our monthly veggie/vegan club on Sunday, September 7th at 1:00 p.m. at the new Native Foods in Aliso Viejo (next to Edward's Theater), 26705 S Aliso Creek Road, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656; phone: (949) 831-1926; <http://www.nativefoods.com>.

This important meet and greet luncheon welcomes Dr. Jim Gardner, animal advocate running for City Council in the city of Lake Forest.

The animal welfare community has a new champion and he needs your help. Dr. Jim Gardner is a Clinical Psychologist and former CEO of an internet marketing company who turned his back on both these worlds and now spends full time on animal welfare issues. What was once a hobby or avocation has now become an obsession.

Dr. Gardner was certified as an animal rehabilitation specialist and helped clean seabirds during the California oil spills and helped Salton Sea Pelicans recover from Botulism. In 2005 he went to New Orleans on three separate occasions to rescue animals.

But these were only the prelude. For the past two years, Dr. Gardner a group of 5,000 citizens in South Orange County have been advocating for local shelters. It seems that many cities in South OC use the county shelter, where admissions are actually growing and where the kill rate has remained stable at approximately 50%, one of the highest in California. Please join us at this important meeting to find out the many ways in which you can support Dr. Gardner in his campaign for election to the Lake Forest City Council.

We have been alternating lunch and dinner meetings and would like to know which time is more convenient for most people. Please respond to julie.meskell@ocpausa.org with your preference for either a 1:00 p.m. lunch meeting or a 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Atheist Alliance International (AAI) Convention – Thursday, September 25th through Sunday, September 28th in Long Beach

Join OCPA at the Atheist Alliance International (AAI) Convention, Thursday, September 25th through Sunday, September 28th in Long Beach at the Queen Mary.

The convention will feature various exhibitors, buffets, speakers, entertainment, book signings and more. For more information about the convention, visit:

<http://www.atheistalliance.org/conventions/2008/info.php>.

If you are interested in volunteering at the OCPA table on either Friday or Saturday, please contact us at ocvegan@yahoo.com with your information and times available.

"Skin Trade" Cabaret Fundraiser – Sunday, September 28th 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in L.A.

Join local activists at the "Skin Trade" Cabaret Fundraiser for ARME'S new documentary about the fur trade on September 28th, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at The Mint, 6010 W. Pico Blvd.. Los Angeles, CA 90035.

"Skin Trade" is the follow-up to ARME's multi-award-winning documentary, "Behind the Mask." This event is to help ARME raise funds to complete "Skin Trade."

The fun-filled evening includes: live music, live raffle, silent auction, kissing booth, photo booth, dancing, give-aways, vegan treats and appetizers, celebrity surprises, the screening of the "Skin Trade" trailer, and more!

Tickets are only \$20 pre-purchased or \$25 at the door the night of the event.

Note: VIP tickets are also available for \$35, which includes a VIP goodie-bag, Pin-Up dancers, and preferred seating.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: <http://www.skintradethemovie.com/fundraiser.html>.

World Farm Animals Day – October 2nd

Launched in 1983, World Farm Animals Day takes place on or around October 2nd. It is a time dedicated to exposing, mourning, and memorializing the needless suffering and slaughter of more than 50 billion cows, pigs, turkeys, chickens and other sentient animals in the world's factory farms and slaughterhouses.

FARM USA's annual event includes demos, lectures, leafleting, information tables, vigils, videos, marches and memorials held across the U.S. and internationally on behalf of all farm animals. For local events or to organize your own, visit <http://www.WFAD.org> for ideas on how to get active and request free materials and/or to register your event online.

11th Annual Caring for Creation Conference – Saturday, October 25th in Newport Beach

The Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment, OCICE, is proud to announce its 11th annual Caring for Creation conference on Saturday, October 25th, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 2200 San Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach, California 92660.

This fun gathering of concerned citizens will feature exhibits, guest speakers, workshops, music, breakfast and lunch.

The keynote speaker is the nationally acclaimed author, educator, lecturer, and environmentalist, Bill McKibben. In 2006, Mr. McKibben ignited public awareness of the dangers of global warming. He founded "Step It Up 07" to demand that Congress enact curbs on carbon emissions that would cut global warming pollution by the year 2050. He organized over 1400 global warming demonstrations across the United States on April 14, 2007. This "Step It Up 2007" has been described as the largest day of protest about climate change in the nation's history. In addition to his activism, Mr. McKibben has written over nine books and is currently a scholar in residence at Middlebury College where he directs the Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism.

For more information about this event, visit <http://www.ocice.org>.

If you are interested in volunteering at the OCPA table, please contact us at ocvegan@yahoo.com with your information and times available.

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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