

OCPA E-Alert

September / October 2009



Orange County People for Animals

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- Justice for Dakota Rally – Saturday, October 10th 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Temecula
- Anti-Fur Demo at Nordstrom's – Sunday, October 11th 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Costa Mesa
- Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment – International Day of Climate Action – Saturday, October 24th 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Irvine
- World Go Vegan Week – October 25-31st – Various Events and Locations
- Fur-Free Friday Demo – Friday, November 27th in Los Angeles and Other Locations

Special Note: If you would like to receive occasional email notifications of outreach and volunteer opportunities – and local demonstration information – please respond to julie.meskell@ocpausa.org to have your e-mail 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.

OCPA now has a new [Myspace.com page](#) and [Facebook page](#). We also have a new meetup page: <http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/>. Check them out often for the latest details on local OCPA demonstrations and other animal-related events.

Good News for the Animals!

Three Important Animal Bills Await Governor's Signature

The following three important animal bills have all finished their journeys through the State legislature and now await the Governor's signature:

- AB 241, the Responsible Breeder Act, limits the number of intact adult animals that pet-breeding facilities are permitted to own.
- AB 1122 prohibits the sale of animals on roadsides and in parking lots. Many of these animals are bred and raised in poor conditions and sick at the time of sale—and since dogs and cats sold in this manner usually are not spayed or neutered, they contribute to the pet overpopulation that leads to tens of thousands of homeless animals being euthanized in the state each year. This humane legislation eliminates the profit motive from people who sell sick animals, and protects consumers from unscrupulous breeders. The bill contains language that exempts adoption events run by humane societies and legitimate animal rescues.
- SB 135 bans the tail docking of cows. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor for any person to cut the solid part of the tail of any horse in the operation known as "docking." The tails of dairy cows typically are severed without anesthetic, either by tying them off and letting the flesh atrophy or by simply amputating them. This mutilation causes serious problems for the cows, including distress, pain and increased fly attacks. This bill likewise prohibits the docking of cattle, as defined, but excludes from the application of the crime of docking emergency *veterinary* treatment performed, as specified. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill imposes a state-mandated local program.

ECHA Announces Process That Spares Over 4 Million Animals from Chemical Tests

PETA discovered that a massive animal testing program in Europe was going to cause even more animal suffering as a result of duplicative chemical testing. As a result, PETA contacted the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which oversees the program, asking that it intervene.

In a huge victory for animals, ECHA announced a process that will spare as many as 4,410,000 animals from cruel chemical tests! These animals will be spared the agony of being force-fed toxic chemicals over and over again via a tube inserted through their mouths and into their stomachs, a terrifying and painful procedure.

USDA Ordered to Disclose Records of AWA Violations

After a seven-year court fight, including the first trial in years involving the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the USDA has been ordered by a federal judge to disclose 1,017 pages of records obtained during an investigation of controversial toxicology lab Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS).

"These records will shed light on the USDA's failure to enforce the Animal Welfare Act," said IDA Research Director, Eric Kleiman. "Why did the USDA, later joined by HLS, fight so hard and so long to prevent the public from seeing these records?"

For more information, visit IDA's [website](#).

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Tell USDA That Factory Farming Isn't Natural

In response to a petition from Farm Sanctuary, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting public comments on whether to consider the treatment and living conditions of farm animals when creating rules allowing producers to label their meat and poultry products as "natural."

The agency is only accepting these comments until November 13th, so please contact the USDA right away and let it know that allowing producers to label food products from animals raised in intensive confinement as “natural” is misleading and deceptive.

Using the link below, please take a moment now to submit comments to the USDA expressing your concern about this important issue. The link includes some sample comments, but remember to personalize them with your own words to make a stronger impact.

After you submit your comments, please send this link to all your friends, co-workers and family members, urging them to submit comments too. If we are to hold producers accountable for their marketing claims, it's essential that the USDA hear from as many people who are concerned about this issue as possible. Don't let the USDA condone animal cruelty in this way. Speak up today, and ask everyone you know to do the same!

To contact the USDA, visit: http://www.farmsanctuary.org/get_involved/actionalerts.html.

Help Put an End to Horse Slaughter

Forced onto crowded trucks, enduring hours without food, water or rest, and shipped for days at a time to Mexico and Canada, our American horses are still being sent to slaughter for human consumption. All kinds of American horses – former show horses, race horses, lesson ponies, even wild horses and heavily pregnant mares – meet this fate.

Documents recently released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) contain shocking images of the extreme suffering of horses transported to slaughter. There is no humane way to slaughter horses for food. We can't stand by and allow this cruelty to continue as killer buyers bid against families and horse rescuers who are trying to give horses a second chance. Our horses deserve better.

That's why we need to pass the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (S. 727). The bill is gaining fast momentum, but U.S. Senator, Dianne Feinstein, hasn't yet co-sponsored S. 727. It is critical that you reach out to her to secure more support for this bill.

Contact Senator Feinstein at (202) 224-3841 and urge her to co-sponsor S. 727, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act. When you call, remember to leave your name and address so it is clear that you are a constituent. You can say:

"Hello, my name is [your name] and I'm calling from [your town] to urge [Senator's name] to co-sponsor S. 727, the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, to end the slaughter of horses for human consumption. Thank you."

Thank you for your continued support in fighting to protect America's horses from slaughter.

Urge Dunkin' Donuts to Go Egg-Free; IHOP to Go Cage-Free

In August 2009, a COK investigator worked inside an egg factory farm owned by Michael Foods, a company that supplies eggs to Dunkin' Donuts. While employed there, the investigator witnessed and documented horrific conditions for egg-laying hens, including:

- Hens immobilized in the wires of their cages, unable to access food or water
- Decomposing and "mummified" corpses left in cages with live birds
- A Michael Foods employee decapitating a hen
- Birds suffering from overcrowding, severe feather loss, and untreated injuries

Earlier this year, activists reached out to Dunkin' Donuts urging the company to offer egg-free donuts. Due to the company's lack of action on this issue, COK launched a campaign website, DunkinCruelty.com, asking caring consumers to contact the company—and so far, thousands have. Please visit the site and urge Dunkin' Donuts to go egg-free

Even though Denny's, Burger King, Wendy's and other major restaurant chains buy some of their eggs from cage-free farms that don't cruelly confine hens in barren battery cages, the restaurant chain most

known for its breakfasts refuses to take this modest step. IHOP still serves eggs that come from hens crammed into wire cages so small the animals can barely move for their entire lives.

IHOP's refusal took on new urgency with the release of this [undercover video](#) that reveals shocking abuses at IHOP's primary egg supplier. The footage reveals filthy conditions, sick and injured hens, and birds forced to live in cages with the decomposing corpses of dead birds.

Help move IHOP away from this cruelty by urging them to follow their competitors' lead and start switching away from battery cage eggs. Call Prometheus Partners, a company that owns dozens of IHOP restaurants, at 770-395-9091 (if voicemail picks up, press 1 for Nick Peters, Prometheus CEO), and say something like this:

"Hello, my name is [your name] and I am calling to ask IHOP to start using eggs that don't come from hens crammed into cages. I just watched the undercover video of your egg supplier, and the images of animal cruelty are appalling. Please start switching to cage-free eggs. Thank you."

After you make your call, please [follow up with an email to IHOP headquarters](#) to let them know that customers care about animal welfare.

Help Stop Chicken Swinging/Slaughtering Ritual

Kapparot (atonement) is a ritual preceding Yom Kippur in which many Orthodox Jews swing chickens around their heads while reciting a chant about transferring the punishment God would otherwise confer on them onto the birds. The chickens are then slaughtered, on or off the premises, or simply abandoned or thrown into garbage bags.

San Diego Animal Advocates were able to rescue several chickens this year by offering a donation at the Chabad in La Jolla where the ceremony took place.

Kapparot chicken "swinging" defenders claim the ritual is "compassionate." Video documenting the suffering, crying birds and the callous treatment they receive at the hands of the practitioners can be seen at <http://www.upc-online.org/kaparos>. The birds are typically swung with their wings pulled backward. This is a painful experience and potentially injurious to the ligaments and tendons of these birds, who have already sat miserably cramped in transport crates, often for days without food or water, before being "swung." The abuse of these birds is fully consistent with the fact that kapparot practitioners regard them as mere symbolic receptacles for their personal punishment.

The use of chickens in kapparot rituals is not required by the Torah or the Talmud. Most observers swing coins for charity. In recent years, a groundswell of opposition to the kapparot chicken "swinging" and slaughter has been growing in New York City, Los Angeles, and Jerusalem. People are sick of the animal cruelty and want it stopped.

If you'd like to help out with this campaign throughout the year by contacting synagogues, please contact Julie at julie.meske@ocpausa.org.

Recent OCPA Activities

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club Meeting – Sunday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m. at The Loving Hut in Ladera Ranch

OCPA members and friends met at this great new location to enjoy the monthly veggie/vegan dinner on Sunday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m. at The Loving Hut in Ladera Ranch, 27522 Antonio Parkway P2, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694 (located 2.5 miles north of the 5 freeway at the corner of Crown Valley Parkway and Antonio Parkway); phone: 949-365-1077; website: <http://lovinghut.us/orangecounty/index.html>.

Loving Hut was created with a vision that all beings could live in peace, love and harmony with each other and the planet. It is an invitation to gourmet cuisine made with wholesome vegan ingredients, offering an accessible starting point for those making the noble transition to a plant-based diet...

This restaurant specializes in Asian and American dishes including summer rolls, egg rolls, mock chicken salad, non-dairy cheese bread, and fried rice. They have a variety of exotic juices and drinks such as passionfruit, orange, and plum drinks.

We meet every first Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at a different vegetarian/vegan restaurant. Stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

Justice 4 Karley Court Appearance – Friday, September 11th at 8:30 a.m. in Riverside

Supporters for the Justice 4 Karley campaign met on Friday, September 11th at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 41 at the Riverside County Courthouse, 4100 Main St. Riverside, 92501. The judge denied the change of venue motion and set a trial date for Tuesday, November 10th.

Karley justice defenders have started another petition and Karley needs you on this one too! Please petition for the maximum prison term of four years if Glynn Johnson is convicted. We are hoping he will be convicted of felony animal cruelty. Please visit the following link for the new petition:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/justice-4-karley-convict-glynn-johnson>.

For more information on this campaign, visit <http://justice4karley.com/>.

Animal Acres Gala – Saturday, September 12th in Pacific Palisades

The Animal Acres Gala was held at the beautiful Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades on Saturday, September 12th. Animal advocates from all over Southern California and beyond attended the annual Gala celebration for Animal Acres, which proved to be both fun and inspirational.

This star-studded event featured such celebs as keynote speaker Ed Begley, Jr, Kathy Freston, and Larry Sullivan. Dinner and dessert was catered by Madeleine's Bistro in Tarzana. Additional desserts were served on the terrace by C'est La V and Mudslinger non-dairy ice cream, were vegans enjoyed creating their own sundaes.

This fundraiser was a huge success and needed more than ever after one of the worst firestorms in California history, the Station fire which threatened Animal Acres Sanctuary. All of the animals have safely returned to the sanctuary following the evacuation.

Animal Acres is a non-profit animal advocacy organization started in 2004 and dedicated to promoting farmed animal protection through direct rescue and shelter efforts, humane education, public outreach, and investigative actions to prevent cruelty to farmed animals.

For more information about this event and Animal Acres, visit:

http://animalacres.org/news/splash_090914.html.

Foie Gras Victory – Friday, September 18th at Hamamori in Costa Mesa

APRL and OCPA's peaceful demonstration – scheduled for Friday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m. at Hamamori Restaurant against the serving of foie gras – was canceled at the last minute when the restaurant decided to remove foie gras from their menu.

Hamamori Restaurant is located at 3333 Bear St # 320 - Crystal Court, So. Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1791; phone: (714) 850-0880; website: <http://www.hamamori.com>. Please call them to thank them for making the compassionate choice to stop serving foie gras.

Foie gras is created by forcibly restraining ducks three times a day while a rough steel pipe is shoved down their throats to overfeed them to the point that their livers swell to more than 10 times the normal size. "If those who purchase and eat this product could only see the diseased organ inside the body of a filth-encrusted duck, the last place they would put this "delicacy" is in their mouths," writes Holly Cheever, DVM, animal cruelty inspector.

The foie gras campaign has resulted in several local restaurants, such as Five Feet, the Sky Room, Mr. A's, and Laurel's, removing foie gras from the menu.

For more information, visit: <http://www.aprl.org/foiegras.html> or <http://banfoiegras.com>. Visit APRL's [Facebook](#) page for information about upcoming demonstrations in our efforts to achieve a foie gras-free Orange County.

OCPA and OC Vegan Drinks Meetup – Saturday, September 26th at Taleo Mexican Grill in Irvine

Taleo Mexican Grill in Irvine hosted an awesome night of drinks, food and socializing on their huge patio on Saturday, September 26th. The restaurant provided free guacamole, chips and salsa, happy hour pricing on drinks all night, and a special vegan menu.

At least 40 people showed up to enjoy some tasty vegan Mexican food and pomegranate margaritas, as well as other specialty drinks.

Taleo Mexican Grill is located at 3309 Michelson Drive, Irvine CA 92612; phone: 949-553-9002.

For future meetup information, visit: <http://www.meetup.com/ocpausa>.

Justice for Dakota Demo – Sunday, September 27th at 12:00 p.m. in Temecula

OCPA held a demonstration in Temecula on Sunday, September 27th at 12:00 p.m. for the 5-year old dog, Dakota, who was unnecessarily shot five times and killed by an undercover DEA.

According to witnesses, the doggie was wagging her tail as she stood next to her guardian and was suddenly, without warning, fired upon by a law enforcement agent. The family of Dakota, and animal advocates, are urging an investigation into the matter.

The next demonstration for Dakota will be held on Saturday, Oct 10th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Temecula at The Duck Pond at the corner of Rancho California Rd and Ynez Rd. Please contact Staci with any questions at justice4dakota@live.com.

World Farm Animals Day Leafletting – Friday, October 2nd and Saturday, October 3rd at the Huntington Beach Pier

OCPA met on Friday, October 2nd and Saturday, October 3rd at the Huntington Beach pier to celebrate World Farm Animals Day and to help bring public awareness to the plight of farm animals everywhere by distributing vegan literature, displaying video messages, and sharing vegan food.

World Farm Animals Day, observed on (or around) October 2nd, is dedicated to exposing, mourning, and memorializing the needless suffering and killing of the more than 55 billion cows, pigs, turkeys, chickens, and other sentient land animals in the world's factory farms and slaughterhouses. It is a day for all to speak out against the atrocities and brutalization inflicted on animals raised for meat, eggs, and dairy. The annual occasion is observed with activities in all 50 U.S. states and two dozen other countries. The date marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club Meeting – Sunday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m. at Bo De Tinh Tam Chay in Westminster

OCPA members and friends enjoyed the monthly vegan dinner on Sunday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m., at Bo De Tinh Tam Chay (vegetarian restaurant), 15352 Beach Blvd, Westminster, CA 92683 (at McFadden Ave, near Toyota dealership); phone: 714-891-4455.

This second and larger location features an extensive food and beverage menus and nice Asian bamboo decor.

We meet every first Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at a different vegetarian/vegan restaurant. Stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

Anti-Fur Demo at Nordstrom's – Sunday, October 4th 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Costa Mesa

OCPA members and animal advocates met on Sunday, October 4th between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. to leaflet in front of Nordstrom's at South Coast Plaza (Sunflower Street entrance) against the selling of fur items in its stores.

Nordstrom's is likely to drop fur, as its owners claim to be animal lovers; they've already dropped their own line of fur, but still sell fur by other makers. It would be a huge victory for the animals if a major retailer like Nordstrom's drops **all** fur items from its stores.

OCPA is again meeting in front of Nordstrom's on Sunday, October 11th between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Please come out to help educate consumers about the plight of animals killed in the name of "fashion."

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

OCPA now has a new [Myspace.com page](#) and [Facebook page](#). We also have a new meetup page: <http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/>. Check them out often for the latest details on local OCPA demonstrations and other animal-related events. A special thanks to Tracey Turner, Jennifer Tan and Dave Simon for their help in setting up and maintaining these pages/sites for OCPA.

OCPA Meetup: Compassionate Cuisine – Friday, October 9th 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden in Long Beach

Come out and enjoy a fun evening with OCPA for the animals this Friday, October 9th, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, 1701 Earl Warren Drive, Long Beach, CA 90815.

This Compassionate Cuisine event will feature drinks, food, comedy and music for a worthy cause (the animals) and costs just \$35.00 per person in advance or \$45 at the door.

Explore a fragrant Japanese garden and sample vegan drinks and foods from local restaurants, while supporting Animal Acres and World Vegetarian Day. The Irvine Young Symphony, fresh from playing at the Sundance Festival and Beijing Olympics, will provide the evening's musical entertainment. Comedian Carol Leifer will be on hand to keep things funny.

The \$35 or \$45 donation is good for all you can eat. All proceeds benefit Animal Acres, a non-profit farmed animal sanctuary north of Los Angeles. For more information on Compassionate Cuisine or Animal Acres visit: <http://www.compassionatecuisine.net/>.

To RSVP, please visit the Animal Acres website at the URL above.

To learn more about this event, visit: <http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/calendar/11499283/>.

Justice for Dakota Rally – Saturday, October 10th 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Temecula

Join OCPA in a rally to demand a full investigation into the shooting and killing of 5-year old dog, Dakota, by an undercover agent.

We'll meet this Saturday, October 10th from 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Duck Pond, located at the corner of Rancho California Road and Ynez Road in Temecula.

From Orange County, take the 55 Riverside Fwy north to the 91 Fwy north. Transition to the 15 Fwy south and continue to Rancho California Road in Temecula. Turn left on Rancho California Road and drive to the second light, Ynez Rd. Turn right on Ynez and then turn left at the first light, which will bring you into the Duck Pond parking lot (no charge for parking).

From San Diego, take 15 north to Rancho California Road. Turn right. The first light is Ynez Road. Turn right. The first light on Ynez turns into Pat and Oscars Duck Pond.

Bring signs demanding Justice for Dakota!! We will have signs and a banner as well. Please show your support and help us obtain justice for Dakota and her breed!! The local media will also be there.

According to witnesses, Dakota was wagging her tail as she stood next to her guardian and was suddenly, without warning, fired upon by a law enforcement agent. The family of Dakota and animal advocates are urging an investigation into the matter.

For questions, please contact Staci at justice4dakota@live.com.

Anti-Fur Demo at Nordstrom's – Sunday, October 11th 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Costa Mesa

OCA is again meeting in front of Nordstrom's on Sunday, October 11th between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Please join us there to help educate consumers about the plight of animals killed in the name of "fashion."

If you can't attend this peaceful demonstration, you can help by writing a quick e-mail to Nordstrom's telling them that you oppose fur. Last year, we saw rabbit, fox, raccoon coats/jackets and fur-trimmed coats/jackets at Nordstrom's. These animals do not deserve this fate; please help them.

Contact Robyn with any questions at animalprotectionlb@gmail.com.

Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment – International Day of Climate Action – Saturday, October 24th 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Irvine

On October 24th, OCICE will join with thousands of rallies across the globe, between 7:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., to call attention to the need to get CO2 levels down to 350 parts per million, what is considered to be the safe level in order to reduce the effects of global climate change.

This event will be held at the Outdoor Education Center located in Irvine Regional Park, 2 Irvine Park Drive, Orange, CA. Visit the eco-friendly exhibits and participate in tree planting and educational programs.

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

Note: The hikes, 5K, and bike rallies begin at 7:00 a.m., while registration for all other activities begins at 9:00 a.m.

World Go Vegan Week – October 25-31st – Various Events and Locations

The 4th annual World GO VEGAN Week is taking place this year from October 25th through 31st.

This week is a celebration of compassion and a time to take action for animals, the environment and everyone's wellbeing, and an opportunity to educate communities about the vegan lifestyle as a compassionate, sustainable, and healthy way of eating and living.

Promoting veganism through outreach events and the media, the annual World GO VEGAN Week is helping to make the word "vegan" a household word, universally recognized as meaning love and compassion for all living beings. Veganism enables people to live in balance with all of Earth's creatures and promote freedom from exploitation for animals as part of their everyday lives. Modern animal agriculture is cruel and violent toward the chickens, cows, pigs and other creatures used to make meat, milk and eggs.

For the health of people, the environment, and farmed animals, veganism is the best choice. World GO VEGAN Week encourages people to become conscious of what - and who - they are eating, the effect it has on the world, and that a non-violent alternative exists.

Visit this link to discover some ways in which you can celebrate World GO VEGAN Week: <http://www.worldgoveganweek.com/>.

Fur-Free Friday Demo – Friday, November 27th in Los Angeles and Other Locations

This year, Fur-Free Friday demonstrations will be held on Friday, November 27th (always the day after Thanksgiving), in Los Angeles and various other locations throughout Southern California.

For more information about a demonstration near you, visit: <http://www.furfreefriday.com/> for updates and details about this fun and successful annual outreach event.

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.