

OCPA E-Alert 9-15-03



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Good News for the Animals!

Israel Bans Force-Feeding of Ducks and Geese

Thanks to the efforts of animal activist groups and citizens, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that force-feeding ducks and geese is in violation of the law and that the regulations that allowed this practice are invalid. Israel is currently one of the world's major producers of foie gras, a "gourmet delicacy" created by forcing a metal tube into a bird's throat several times a day, causing an enlarged, fatty and diseased liver. The ban goes into effect in March 2005; let's continue to work for other countries (including the U.S.) to follow suit!

CA Judge Prevents Navy from Deployment of Sonar

A California federal judge ruled that the U.S. Navy cannot globally deploy a new submarine-hunting sonar system. The military neglected to adhere to federal laws when determining whether the sonar could harm whales and other marine animals; the loud, low-frequency sounds emitted by sonar can cause serious damage to whales, dolphins and porpoises. The

battle is not completely over yet, as the Bush administration could push a bill through Congress that would allow wider use of the sonar technology (in the name of “national security”)...

Two Animal Cruelty Charges Upgraded to Felony

Thanks to letters and calls, charges against a Virginia man (James Coleman) accused of shooting and killing a dog were upgraded from a misdemeanor to felony. And a Cook County State Attorney’s office in Illinois reviewed a case against a man (Peter Stratigos) accused of fatally attacking a 13-week old puppy and upgraded a misdemeanor charge to a felony. The man now faces a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$25,000 fine or more for this crime.

For your information, all but the following states have made animal cruelty a felony offense: Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, North Dakota and Utah. For those states still in the “dark ages,” animal cruelty is only considered a misdemeanor offense – even though it has been proven that people who abuse defenseless animals are much more likely to abuse people including significant others and children.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed!

OC Vet/Pet Insurer Kills Exotic Animals for Sport

A prominent Orange County veterinarian and founder/CEO of Veterinary Pet Insurance, Inc., apparently participates in South African hunting trips in his free time. How hypocritical that someone who dedicates his professional life to saving the lives of dogs and cats spends recreational time trophy hunting and killing other animals.

Write to Jack Stephens, D.V.M., CEO, Veterinary Pet Services, Inc., P.O. Box 2344, Brea, CA 92822-2344 or call 1-800-872-7387 and let him know that you won’t be using VPI as long as he continues to hunt and kill wildlife. If you currently have a VPI plan, consider switching to Healthy Pet Insurance, PetCare, PetsHealth or ShelterCare instead.

Swaziland Allows Elephant Export to U.S. Zoos

Despite public outcry, Swaziland recently violated the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and exported 11 elephants to the San Diego Zoo and Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, FL.

Please express your outrage by contacting the Swaziland embassy: Ambassador Mary M. Kanya, Embassy of the Kingdom of Swaziland, 1712 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009; 202-234-5002. Also contact Douglas Myers, Executive Director, San Diego Zoo, P.O. Box 120551, San Diego, CA 92112; 619-231-1515; Dmyers@sandiegozoo.org - and C. Lex Salisbury, President/CEO, Lowry Park Zoological Garden, 7530 North Blvd., Tampa, FL 33604; 813-935-8552; Lex.Salisbury@lowryparkzoo.org. Let them know how you feel about them separating and discarding older elephants for others removed from their natural habitats and families for a life of imprisonment.

Lord and Taylor (May Company) to Open Fur Department

After a 10-year anti-fur policy, Lord and Taylor, one of May Company's subsidiaries, is considering opening a fur department in New York. Once one opens, others are sure to follow. Most of us already know about the atrocities behind the fur trade; it is disconcerting to hear that a prominent store is about to take a huge step backward against animals.

Please contact both Lord and Taylor and the May Company to let them know you oppose them opening fur departments: Jane Elfers, CEO, Lord and Taylor, 424 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018; 212-391-3344 x 7789 – Gene Kahn, CEO, The May Company, 611 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63101; 314-342-6300; roycie_earvin@may-co.com (customer service).

Horse Dies in Accident at Knott's Berry Farm

A horse used to pull a stagecoach at Knott's Berry Farm recently became frightened, fell and was entangled in reins. In the horse's attempts to stand, he/she sustained head and leg injuries. The following day, another stagecoach ran into a fence, killing one horse and injuring another. Other stagecoach accidents have occurred at Knott's over the years, one injuring a young boy.

Please contact the general manager at Knott's and ask him to eliminate stagecoach rides to ensure public and animal safety: Jack Salfas, General Manager, Knott's Berry Farm, 8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, CA 90620; 714-220-5200; questcomments@knotts.com.

Recent OCPA Activities

Leafleting in Laguna Beach

We spent several hours at the main beach in beautiful Laguna handing out [Why Vegans](#) and other vegan/vegetarian literature. Many were receptive and we talked to several people about the benefits of adopting a vegan diet – for the animals, for human health and for the environment. Most of us then enjoyed lunch at a great vegan outdoor restaurant in Laguna, *The Stand*.

Rodeo Protest – Rancho Mission Viejo

Members of OCPA and other activists protested and leafleted at the Rancho Mission Viejo rodeo in late August. After receiving an eyewitness report about a horse injured at the rodeo, protesters attempted to intervene but were not allowed to discover the condition of the horse. One of the activists at the scene is still investigating this issue.

More rodeo protests are scheduled in October: Sat., 10/4, 12:00 noon, 9th Annual San Dimas Western Days Rodeo, Horsethief Canyon Park in San Dimas; Fri., 10/10, 8:30 a.m., Kids' Day at City of Industry Rodeo, Industry Hills Equestrian Center; and Sat. 10/11, 4:30, 18th Annual Industry Hills Charity Pro Rodeo, Industry Hills Equestrian Center in City of Industry. Contact Julie (julie.meskeill@ocpausa.org) if you're interested in joining our volunteer list to receive additional information on these protests and others.

Leafleting at the Women of Faith Conference

We distributed over 1,000 Christian Vegetarian Association brochures at the Women of Faith conference held at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim in early September.

The 3rd Quarterly OCPA Meeting – September 2003

Our 3rd quarterly meeting was held at Maureen and Mike Shrubsole's beautiful home in Huntington Beach. Our gracious hosts provided a great vegan meal from Happy Veggie; guests socialized and enjoyed musical entertainment by Alec Christopher Marken/Deep Stirrings.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Grief Release Workshop for Animal Rights Advocates

Saturday, November 1st, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Irvine facilitated by Ava Park, Founder of OCPA. We'll send another e-alert with more details and registration information soon (reservations required by 10/10/03).

Worldfest – Los Angeles, CA

Sunday, September 28th, at Woodley Park in Van Nuys. Enjoy a full day of music, speeches and vegan food. Visit <http://www.worldfestevents.com> for more information.

World Farm Animals Day

In honor of World Farm Animals Day, we are meeting at the Block of Orange on Saturday, October 4th, 11:00 a.m. to march and distribute vegan/vegetarian literature. Please contact us at information@ocpausa.org if you'd like to join our volunteer list and receive additional information on this and other outreach events. The more, the merrier – and the better for the animals! You can also participate in walks and other activities to honor World Farm Animals Day. Visit www.wfad.org for more details.

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/support_us/support_us.htm (will soon change to <http://ocpausa.org/join.htm>).

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