

# QUAKER CONCERN FOR ANIMALS

[www.quaker-animals.org.uk](http://www.quaker-animals.org.uk)



**SPRING 2012**

*To say that we love God and at the same time  
exercise cruelty towards the least creature is a contradiction in itself*

**John Woolman (1720 – 1772)**

**£1.50**

## HOW TO JOIN QUAKER CONCERN FOR ANIMALS

Please send your cheque for **£12 or £7 (usual concessions) for 2012** to Marian Hussenbux, address below. Please note, our address at PO BOX 136, WIRRAL CH30 9BZ has now lapsed.

Please make cheques payable to **Quaker Concern for Animals**. If you wish to pay by Standing Order, please ask for details.

It would help us if you would say how you first came to hear about *Quaker Concern for Animals*.

Requests for emergency funding, occasioned either by man-made or natural disasters, reach us more and more frequently. If you are able to support us with an extra donation, we can help more animals in distress.

### **COMMITTEE OF QUAKER CONCERN FOR ANIMALS 2011 - 2012**

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## FRIENDLY NEWS

The annual **Interfaith Celebration of Animals** which QCA supports took place for the 8th year at Golders Green Unitarians in London on September 4.

The keynote speakers were our patron **André Menache** of **Antidote Europe** and **Alistair Currie** of **PETA**.

Two QCA members, Sonia Waddell and Thom Bonneville, gave readings and Sonia presented a cheque to Alistair Currie for PETA in memory of her daughter, Andrea.

**André Menache** said:

‘Cosmic laws are the characteristics of the One Universal Mind in operation throughout the whole universe. They are also referred to as Universal Laws, for there is no place, dimension, solar system, or galaxy where they do not function or operate as the administrative organ of The Cosmos. Another term for Cosmic Laws are the “Laws of Nature.”

In this context, I would like to speak about the laws of nature. When we look at nature we see harmony.

However, in today’s modern world, we seem to have lost touch with nature to the point where it becomes difficult to define what is natural. Fortunately, we can seek guidance from the timeless wisdom of many spiritual masters, who all say the same thing. The answers to the mysteries of life, nature and the universe are all to be found by looking within.

Look for example at the cells inside our bodies. Under normal circumstances, they all work hard, taking only what they need in order to perform their task. They work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If they are damaged as a result of environmental pollution they will stop multiplying so as not to pass on the damage to their daughter cells. However, if the cell is unable to repair the damage, it will commit suicide (the scientific term for this is *apoptosis*), in order to preserve the integrity of the surrounding cells and in order to allow us to go on living as normally as possible. This behaviour is best described as altruism and that is the message our cells are trying to convey to us. In some cases, our body cells are so damaged by toxins and other factors that their repair mechanisms no longer function. Under these circumstances, these damaged cells may start to multiply uncontrollably, pushing healthy neighbouring cells out of their way. This behaviour is called cancer.

Pure Science is the pursuit of truth in the material world. Science is neither good nor bad. It is how humans use science - in the form of technology - that determines whether the result is good or bad. The use of animals in vivisection is an example where humans have perverted science. Gandhi referred to vivisection as the blackest of all black crimes. Not only is vivisection unspeakably cruel but it is also scientifically without foundation.

Good science consists of three things: it should be species-specific, it should cause no harm and it should be evidence- based.

With reference to the laws of nature, no two animal species can interbreed because each is genetically unique. In the rare examples where two closely related species do interbreed,

such as a horse with a donkey, the resulting offspring will be infertile. When humans ignore this basic natural law, by trying to apply the results of animal experiments to humans, the result is disastrous. Today, adverse drug reactions of medications that have all been “safety tested” on animals are the fourth leading cause of death, after heart disease, cancer and stroke. The drugs that are supposed to treat human disease now kill 18 000 people a year, which is equivalent to 60 Jumbo jets, each carrying 300 passengers, crashing every year. If that was to happen in the aviation industry we would all stop flying, and yet we allow it to happen in the pharmaceutical industry.

The second principle of good science is to do no harm, which is the principle of *ahimsa*. You cannot do harm in order that good will result.

If harm must occur for good to result, then there is something wrong with the equation. We are witness to the fact that public faith has been exploited by some medical charities who promise us cures if we will allow them to experiment on animals. This is not fair to science, because no animal can predict what will happen in a different species or in a human. In conclusion, we should respect natural laws and abide by them through respect for all life and strive to live in harmony with the natural world.’

André also sends the following information:

*An article published in the peer-reviewed Medicolegal and Bioethics presents a rare challenge not just to the ethics but also to the science of using non human primates in research.*

*Public surveys have consistently shown the general public to be uneasy about the use of non human primates in scientific research. For example, 80 per cent of respondents to the European Commission’s public consultation on the current revision of Directive 86/609/EEC (on the protection of animals in laboratories) responded that the use of primates in laboratories was “not acceptable”.*

*Now, a team of scientists, including a professor of neuroscience based at the University of California in San Diego, has published an in-depth analysis that will make researchers who use animals begin to question not just the ethics of using these animals in research, but also the science that underpins their use as “models” of human diseases. The article, published December 6th, 2011 in the online peer-reviewed journal Medicolegal and Bioethics, represents a rare challenge to the use of non human primates in science.*

Full online article is available at: [http://www.dovepress.com/articles.php?article\\_id=8799](http://www.dovepress.com/articles.php?article_id=8799)  
Reference to EC public consultation is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/pdf/results\\_citizens.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/pdf/results_citizens.pdf)

## **Service in Celebration of Animals and Thanksgiving for the work of the RSPCA**

Our member **Edna Mathieson** writes:

‘Westminster Abbey was full to capacity on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, for a service to tie in with *World Animal Day* on October 4<sup>th</sup>: some had to sit on the ledge which runs full-length along each wall. Once the congregation had settled, we were told that two police dogs were present, along with the three dogs – Rex, Molly, Rim – who live at the Abbey.

The first reading was from Wisdom 11:26:

“God, you love all things which exist; and despise none of the things you have made, for you would have made nothing you did not love ...”

Then Psalm 24:1 which mentions “other worlds sublime, that God has made ... earthworms burrowing in the ground: the world of skylarks soaring above ... the world of foxes playing around their dens”.

Sutton Valence School sang Psalm 104:24, 28b-30. And the main reading, Isaiah 11:1-9, followed: “... The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid...” A dramatic presentation of this was given by children of Burdett Coutts School.

Another Reading, Romans 8:18-23, referred again significantly to “the *whole* (my emphasis) of creation”.

The police officers presented and spoke about their dogs and Sutton Vallance School sang *All Things Bright and Beautiful*.

So the readings, hymns, presentations, predictably and of course, have at their core respect and consideration for all animals. It would seem humans, particularly those who practise Christianity, have lost sight of this in their own belief system. **Andrew Linzey** refers to this both in his book, *Animal Theology*, and in his Address which followed.

God made the whole of creation, therefore animals cannot be seen as they usually are as a means to human ends; nor assume that the chief end of creation is man, or his salvation. God’s nature is love, which must therefore extend to all His creation. There is, however, a strong tendency in systematic theology to assume that the non-human is worthless in the eyes of God.

Andrew Linzey also pointed out that there is no mention in the liturgy of animals – only human animals: indeed - “... there is almost a deification of the human species...”, “...we have become blind in our relationship to other animals”. As a student, he had heard a well-known theologian say that it was a pity “Linzey can’t forget about animals”.

Andrew Linzey went on to point out how, theologically speaking, the language of rights is no novelty. To grant human rights is to accept that they may be wronged; equally, to grant animals rights is to accept that they also may be wronged.

Another hymn followed, the first verse of which points out that God made the seas, DNA, atoms, roses and chimpanzees; and “... to care for all his creatures, ‘til they share our liberty, He’s chosen you and me”.

The Blessing finished the Service – “God give you compassionate hearts and the desire to strive for a peaceable kingdom in which all creatures shall be free from pain ...’

### ***Quaker Homeless Action***

*QHA* has been alleviating the poverty and distress of homeless people for nearly 50 years now. The ***Quaker Christmas Shelter***, which provides beds as well as food and friendship at Union Chapel Islington over the Christmas period, also welcomes the companion dogs of their guests. Not every shelter is in a position to do this, so it must be a great relief for those for whom their dog might be their only friend to find this inclusive haven at Christmas.

For some ten years now, QCA has contributed towards feeding and caring for the dogs who come to the shelter and, from time to time, individual Friends make a special donation to QCA for this fund.

**Kate Mellor**, Director of QHA, told us:

'Lady, a guest at the Quaker Christmas Shelter this year was the only dog willing to be photographed for the QCA web site! She was very happy with a new coat, toy, some dog food, a bowl and some treats. Her guardian lives with Lady in a bedsit, is destitute, and came over to the shelter so he could have meals. He was very loving toward his dog companion and was so happy to have these lovely things for her.

I think life on the streets can be very hard for dogs, so we do try to make it a bit easier for them over Christmas.

Not all the dogs we meet are as valued as Lady, which is very unfortunate. Last year, we had to call the RSPCA to investigate a dog 'owner' who hit his lovely dog in the shelter. That owner would not let us give his dog any food or treats. It was a tragic experience that fortunately was not repeated this year.'

**Quaker Homeless Action**, a national charity run by a volunteer Council of Trustees, is a small and flexible organization that focuses on projects that are not funded by other organisations. The majority of funding for the work of Quaker Homeless Action comes from donations from Quakers. The charity is one example of Quaker 'hands-on' practical help in Britain today.

**Quaker Homeless Action** is at [www.qha.org.uk](http://www.qha.org.uk)

### **A Little Black Dog**

Walking along a dismal street one day,  
Weighed down by picayune, worldly care,  
I chanced upon a golden-eyed stray:  
Small, ravenous, yet blackly fair.  
I gave her all I had—a pat on the head;  
I fumbled about in a fraying tote  
And came up with a dry crust of bread;  
Her little tail wagged a gladsome note....  
Alone, unwanted, she had been hurled  
Into a pit of terror and despair,  
Pitted against a most pitiless world.  
Yet, at my touch, in her pure eyes of gold,  
There took wing a joy so great and so rare  
It soared even as it caught me within its fold.

~ **Vasumathi Krishnasami, Bangalore.**

## Quaker Tapestry Calendar for 2013

It is thanks to our member **Jill Greenway** of Sidcot Local Meeting, whose book reviews have featured in several newsletters, that the *Quaker Tapestry Calendar* will have an animal theme in 2013. Jill selected the animal images from the panels and wrote the text.

Topics covered over the twelve months include the work of UA Fanthorpe, lately our patron, of Kathleen Jannaway, Anna Sewell, farming, testing on animals and whaling.

The Quaker Tapestry calendar can be purchased on line via the website, by mail order, or by visiting the gift shop at the Exhibition Centre in Kendal, priced £5.95 plus p&p.

**Quaker Tapestry Exhibition**, Friends Meeting House, Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BH Tel: 01539 722975 [www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk](http://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk)

### MEETING AT GLENTHORNE

We met in silence, the cows and I  
in the long wet grass, in worship they,  
ruminating I. They sat. I stood  
by the wooden fence that set apart  
the sprawling house from the winding path  
that climbed in awe to the passing clouds.  
Again I saw the hill I climbed before:  
angels ascending, descending,  
stepping lightly on the unploughed earth.

From time to time the cows gave ministry  
- a snort, a shuffling, a flick of tail.  
I waited with cool reverence  
upon the herd's hard wisdom.  
Their eyes were heavy  
with eternity and rain.  
They sat with grace  
upon the damp earth beneath.  
Time enough for miracles.

**Harvey Gillman, with permission.** Harvey is a member of Sussex West Area Meeting.

## Animal Rights Helpline

**Our Life Member Joan Court** writes:

The present dire economic circumstances are having a serious effect on all animals who depend on human beings. Many are being abandoned, especially horses, and sanctuaries are desperate for support to meet spiralling costs. Vet bills are now quite excessive. This affects the Helpline and it is now difficult to re-home companion animals when couple split up, or claim they can't afford food bills.

I still have calls about quite complicated problems. A grandfather rang about his grandson who had raised 5 mandarin ducks in an incubator. He threatened to release them in the river, where they would not survive. The wonderful Hillside Sanctuary agreed to take them and my caller hopes to persuade his grandson to be more responsible.

Yesterday a woman rang about a puppy farm where she thought there were serious welfare problems, but there was a sign on the gate stating 'RSPCA Approved'. I explained it was possible the RSPCA might not be aware, as this often happens, and put her in touch with our local branch.

A very angry man rang about a dog baiting/fights unit he encountered on following up an advertisement for a Rottweiler he wanted. The doors to a barn were open and he saw pit full of injured dogs and blood everywhere. He declined to buy the Rottweiler and drove away fearing he might be attacked. He informed the police and RSPCA and I put him in touch with the Animal Cruelty Investigation Group, whose founder Mike Huskisson is a very experienced undercover operative. My caller hopes to get some video evidence himself.

Several callers complain about the hunt coming to their villages and we discuss tactics of resistance and contacting the League Against Cruel Sports, who have an excellent legal department; and of course, the Hunt Saboteurs Association.

I was amused and happy about a woman who was very nervous about talking to me as she lived – perhaps as a housekeeper – in a cancer research establishment. She was distraught about squirrels trapped in the attic. The Pest Control Unit had set traps, but there was no way she could get them free or have any access from outside. The Pest Controllers were not visiting regularly to check on the traps, so I rang the RSPCA who promptly opened the loft and roof space and set the prisoners free, issuing a warning to the owners of the establishment. My informer said she would probably lose her job – but it was worth it.

So many thanks to QCA for supporting the Helpline – it is used by many caring people who are often in desperate circumstances themselves.

*~ QCA would like to express our appreciation once again to Joan for her excellent work in this important field.*

## ECUMENICAL LINKS IN NEW MEXICO

Our friend in Albuquerque Meeting **Mikki Aronoff** writes of her involvement with Unitarian Universalists:

"I was thrilled earlier this year when a new friend, a retired Unitarian Universalist minister, told me about **Animal Advocates**, a Chapter of *Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry (UUAM)* located here in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the First Unitarian Church.

I, a Quaker who had been longing for a local animal advocacy spiritual home, joined up immediately, finding exactly what I was looking for.

Interdependence of all life and respect for the inherent worth and dignity of all beings are written into the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Principles of Unitarian Universalism. These principles guide **Animal Advocates**.

**Animal Advocates** is just completing its second year of service. For the first time this year, it will receive its fair portion from the social justice fundraiser to be held in February 2012. Its mission is humane education, advocacy, and local assistance. It started with the support of both ministers of the First Unitarian Church. A strong core group and a large email list keep the good work going. Their presence is visibly large at First Unitarian, where they, along with other social justice groups, table every Sunday.

Four humane education forums per year are given for the congregation and the public. Local, national, and internationally known speakers have presented, such as Melanie Joy, Will Tuttle and Gary Kowalski.

**Animal Advocates** has forged alliances with and supports local animal welfare groups, private and public. We partner for events, fundraising and city and county hearings. Every two months, we choose a group to publicize and donate to. Monthly, we join up with *EarthWeb*, the 10-year-old local Unitarian group devoted to environmental issues, for a vegetarian potluck, followed by a speaker or film. Once a year we have an Animal Blessing and open house. During the year, we take field trips to learn more about local organizations.

In March, we will sponsor a weekend event with **LoraKim Joyner**, a Unitarian Universalist veterinarian whose activities with Unitarians assist congregations in certification for the *Reverence for Life* program; this helps people interested in exploring human relationships to other animals, and becoming advocates for all life.

Members' interests range from veganism as a way to stop animal suffering and the welfare of farmed and laboratory animals, wildlife, companion and feral animals, and captive and performing (zoo, rodeo, circus, etc.) animals. One member has started a children's group at First Unitarian so that they might learn about and gain empathy with animals.

**Animal Advocates** is also a founding member of the fledgling **Interfaith Alliance for Animals**, whose aim is to create a bigger voice for animals and a greater arena for humane education. We seek to raise awareness in our own faith-based communities, share information with others, and advocate for animals. We are also discussing a shared project related to service to companion animals of the homeless and to others without the resources to care properly for their animals.

It seems to us that information and consciousness regarding animal suffering is increasing, and it is our hope that with this will come stronger and more positive action to benefit our fellow beings.

Related internet sites:

<http://www.uuam.org>

<http://www.uuam.org/reverence.php>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Unitarian-Animal-Advocates-a-Chapter-of-the-UU-Animal-Ministry/140295889370188>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Interfaith-Alliance-for-Animals/268351009862429>

Sponsored by the *Unitarian Universalist Association*, **Melanie Joy**, Ph.D. (author of "Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs and Wear Cows: An Introduction to *Carnism*" and "Strategic Action for

Animals”) presented to the Albuquerque, New Mexico First Unitarian Animal Advocates groups and to the public a captivating talk on *carnism*, the invisible belief system that shapes our perception of the meat we eat, so that we love some animals and eat others, without knowing why.

Before the talk, Melanie stated she felt that the problem of *carnism* should be one that *carnists* face, rather than a problem for vegans to solve.

Why is *carnism* so entrenched? Melanie blames the fact that we care. We cannot bear the suffering that happens to animals, so, in order to allow ourselves to continue to eat them, we build for ourselves a massive disconnect. On the other side of the coin, Joy presents the hopeful idea that it will also be our caring that will allow us to make changes in the world that will end that suffering.

Melanie Joy is a Harvard-educated psychologist, and professor of psychology and sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She has written articles on psychology, animal protection and social justice, which have been published in a variety of journals and magazines. Dr. Joy is also the author of *Strategic Action for Animals*.

Dr. Joy’s website is: <http://www.carnism.com> - the *Carnism Awareness & Action Network: Changing the Way We Think About Eating Animals.*”

## FROM OUR CATHOLIC FRIENDS

**Father Tomasz**, a Polish Catholic priest based in Vienna, works with autistic children and disturbed teenagers in his parish. He is also involved in animal ministry.

For the feast of St. Francis, he travelled to the Vatican where he fasted, prayed and performed healing for the animals.

He also took a petition to the Pope and is campaigning for the suffering of animals to be recognised by the Christian churches and for the Pope to mention this in his Easter address *urbi et orbi* - to the city (of Rome) and the world.

Our Polish-speaking friend Ela Josephs–Kniaz is in contact with Father Tomasz and tells us that he is getting much support and a large following from animal-friendly people.

The Italian radio station *Orietta Libera*, an advocate of the animal world, was due to interview Father Tomasz on January 29 2012 with a repeat on February 4. Plans are being made by **Catholic Concern for Animals** to arrange for Father Tomasz to visit Britain and spread his compassionate message here. We hope to update this news in due course.

## INTERFAITH

QCA is pleased to report that **Suzanne Barnard**, previously an education officer at PETA, is now director of the **Jewish Vegetarian Society**.

Suzanne, by offering us PETA materials, was very helpful in our production of the animal issue of *Journeys in the Spirit* (August 2009), for use in Children’s Quaker Meetings.

We wish Suzanne well and look forward to closer links with JVS. Suzanne has agreed to speak for Judaism at the next *Interfaith Celebration of Animals*, organised by the Golders Green Unitarians in September each year.

## THE WORLD OF BIRDS

This issue of our newsletter has an avian theme, inspired by the **British Trust for Ornithology's** important work last year on cuckoo migration.

### TRACKING CUCKOOS FROM NORFOLK TO AFRICA

*'It took centuries to solve previous cuckoo mysteries, such as how they got their eggs into other birds' nests, and how the cuckoo chick survived alone. Yet the final enigma, of where they spend their time when summer is over, is likely to be solved in the next few months – thanks to satellite tracking technology.'*

This was the beginning of a report in *The Independent* on July 4 2011 by their Environment Correspondent, **Michael McCarthy**, which prompted the editor to contact the *British Trust for Ornithology* and sponsor Chris and Lyster, two of the migrating cuckoos they were tracking for the first time.

The cuckoos Clement and Martin were caught in Norfolk on May 19, Kasper and Lyster on May 25 and Chris on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The first bird left Britain on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. and the last on the night of the July 22/23 – this was Lyster, who hung around longer in Norfolk, where female cuckoos could still be heard 'bubbling', which meant he had a final chance to mate again.

The **BTO** says:

*The 'Red Listed' Cuckoo is one of the UK's fastest declining migrants. Over 50% of the birds migrating between Europe and Africa have disappeared over the past 25 years. Our knowledge about what this amazing species does once it leaves the UK in August is extremely poor, hampering our ability to explain population changes. We lack even basic information about the routes they take to Africa, when they arrive in their wintering grounds, the habitats they use and how they move around within Africa. This information is urgently needed to form conservation strategies and initiate action - with the development of new 5g tags we can now track this species.*

*The Cuckoo is one of the migrants we know least about once it leaves the UK. After they reach south-eastern Europe the recoveries of 'ringed' Cuckoos supply no further information, apart from the recovery of one young bird found in mid-winter in Cameroon. Knowing where the Cuckoo spends the large part of the year when they are not present in Britain is vital to fully understanding the causes of their declines.*

*In 2011 we used small 5g satellite tags to track the movements of five Cuckoos from breeding grounds in East Anglia to their winter quarters in Africa. These were fitted by BTO staff working with our highly skilled volunteer ringers.*

*The tags transmit for 10 hours and then go into 'sleep' mode for 48 hours to allow the solar panel to recharge the battery. The map on the web site was updated each day at 1000 GMT (1100 BST).*

*The blogs were updated every two - three days, once new positions had been received for each bird.*

How far have they travelled since they left the UK? - Lyster, who took the easterly route through Spain, covered the furthest total distance of 8,500km. Clement took the same route and also travelled 8,500km.

Martin travelled the fewest kilometres of all the cuckoos, with a grand total of just 6,050km, whilst Chris covered 6,700km and Kasper 7,000km.

Martin also travelled the furthest distance in between transmission periods, covering 2,850km in around 57 hours. This huge journey was undertaken when he left France and made his Sahara crossing.

It's interesting to note that Martin is the oldest, and therefore most experienced, of the cuckoos tagged. The other four were all first year birds.

We chose males as they are larger than the females and we needed to be sure that the extra weight of the satellite tags wouldn't compromise their flight. The tags weigh 5g. and at present are the lightest on the market; we are told though that sometime in the next twelve to eighteen months 2g. tags will be available.

By Christmas, all five birds were in the western part of Central Africa, in or around the Congo Basin. The first bird arrived here on 23 October, the last sometime just before 16 December. Although we don't know for sure, these are likely to be their final 'wintering' positions.

*QCA note: this was the latest news on January 11:*

Four of our Cuckoos have all remained at the same locations within Congo, where they have been since Christmas, but one, Chris, has moved around 85km (54 miles) northwest from his more easterly location within the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This new movement placed Chris back in Congo, joining the other four Cuckoos and once again placing them all within the same country.

*This satellite-tracking project is funded by a partnership between the BBC Wildlife Fund, BTO members and Essex & Suffolk Water. The catching team comprised BTO staff and Kasper Thorup and Mikkel Kristensen from the Natural History Museum of Denmark have kindly advised this project and assisted with the fieldwork. Raymond Klaassen from Lund University advised us when planning the project.*

## **British Trust for Ornithology**

The BTO is an independent charitable research institute combining professional and citizen science aimed at using evidence of change in wildlife populations, particularly birds, to inform the public, opinion-formers and environmental policy- and decision-makers. Our impartiality enables our data and information to be used both by Government and NGO campaigners.

Our long-term monitoring data on the status of UK birds sets the standard worldwide for understanding the effects of environmental change on wildlife. Over 40,000 volunteer birdwatchers, in partnership with professional research scientists, collect high quality monitoring data on birds and other wildlife. The combination of professional ecologists, long-term datasets some in excess of 50 years, and volunteers participating all over the country gives the BTO a unique, impartial and knowledgeable voice in nature conservation

We have a broad range of surveys for volunteers to participate in, from weekly counting of garden birds, through monthly winter counts of waterbirds, and sampling of breeding birds across the UK. You can record the nesting success of birds and participate in ringing, where

trained volunteers mark birds to discover more about the mysteries of migration. The BTO is a 'birds-first' organisation, with our volunteers also collecting data on other wildlife too - we work with partner organisations to monitor everything from butterflies to badgers.

Many thanks to **Paul Stancliffe**, Press Officer of the **British Trust for Ornithology** for his willing help, and to the BTO for allowing us to use their material.

[www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

## PROTECTION OF BIRDS WORLDWIDE

What is the link between two hugely influential conservation movements in the United States and in Britain, and some Victorian women's tea parties in Boston and Manchester?

The answer is - feathered hats.

In 1889, Emily Williamson at her house in Didsbury, Manchester, founded a protest group, later a charity, campaigning against the use of great crested grebe and kittiwake feathers in clothing. Originally known as *The Plumage League*, the group gained popularity and eventually amalgamated with the *Fur and Feather League* in Croydon, and formed the **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**, now the largest wildlife conservation charity in Europe.

The original members of the RSPB were all women who campaigned against the fashion for women to wear exotic feathers in hats, and to this end the Society had two simple rules:

- *That Members shall discourage the wanton destruction of Birds, and interest themselves generally in their protection*
- *That Lady-Members shall refrain from wearing the feathers of any bird not killed for purposes of food, the ostrich only excepted.*—RSPB rules, 1899

The Society attracted support from some women of high social standing who popularised the wearing of feathered hats, including the Duchess of Portland, who became the Society's first President, and the Ranee of Sarawak. As the organisation began to attract the support of many other influential figures, both male and female, such as the ornithologist Professor Alfred Newton, it gained in popularity and attracted many new members. The society received a Royal Charter in 1904 from Edward II, and was instrumental in petitioning Parliament to introduce laws banning the use of plumage in clothing.

Nowadays, the Society works to promote conservation and protection of birds and the wider environment through public awareness campaigns, petitions and through the operation of nature reserves throughout the United Kingdom.

The RSPB has:

- Over a million members, including over 195,000 youth members.
- A staff of over 1,300 people and almost 18,000 volunteers.
- Resources available for charitable purposes in 2010 was £94.7 million.
- 200 nature reserves covering almost 130,000 hectares, home to 80% of our rarest or most threatened bird species.

- A UK headquarters, three national offices and nine regional offices.
- A local network of 175 local groups and more than 110 youth groups.
- At least 9 volunteers for every paid member of staff.

~Thanks to the **RSPB** for allowing us to use material from their site, where you can catch up on their excellent and wide ranging work: [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

The United States equivalent of the RSPB is **The Audubon Society**.

The **Audubon Society** began life in Boston, in 1896, when a Mrs. Augustus Hemenway read a description of the bloody hunts at the egret rookeries and invited the city's fashionable ladies to a series of afternoon teas, at which many of the women pledged to boycott the bird hats. A formal meeting of prominent Boston women and men later formed the **Massachusetts Audubon Society**. [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

### Murmuration

Winterlight  
and at dusk  
the starlings  
gather overhead.  
People stand  
at their windows,  
paused in the act  
of drawing curtains  
or slip out into the twilight  
*hey look at this* the words  
murmured  
as the sky patterns  
as a thousand birds  
sweep and shift  
a larva lamp display, a 3D  
aerial ballet  
and when the body of birds  
drop like black stones  
into the trees  
night begins  
to breathe

~ **Fiona Owen**, member of Cyfarfod Crynwyr Caergybi/Holyhead Meeting.

## **CYPRUS**

**BirdLife Cyprus** is a registered non-governmental organization that dedicates itself to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in Cyprus. It was formed in 2003 through the merger of the two Cyprus Ornithological Societies.

**BirdLife Cyprus** is the Cyprus representative of **BirdLife International** – a globally active conservation organization that operates in over 100 countries and territories worldwide and is the recognized global authority on birds.

BirdLife Cyprus aims to promote the study and protection of the birds of Cyprus and their habitats, and to enable the citizens of Cyprus and other countries to play their part in achieving this goal. The organization runs a number of campaigns and monitoring projects to ensure it can fight against activities that threaten wild birds, such as illegal hunting and trapping, and the destruction and degradation of habitats, with a particular focus on Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

### **What BirdLife Cyprus does:**

BirdLife Cyprus campaigns at both local and European levels on behalf of birds and their habitats here in Cyprus.

Effective conservation action is impossible without reliable bird population data. As well as producing monthly and annual reports for bird sightings, we have set up and run systematic and scientific monitoring schemes such as monthly counts of wetland birds, a common bird census and surveys of migrating raptors.

The predominantly low-intensity agriculture in Cyprus makes it an attractive place for birds. Agricultural intensification in Europe has had a well-documented and disastrous effect on farmland birds. BirdLife Cyprus promotes a set of practical programs to ensure local farming practices are kept wildlife-friendly.

BirdLife Cyprus also works to raise awareness about the birds of Cyprus and issues that affect them and their habitats. This is done through a combination of articles in the local media and events/talks to introduce people to Cyprus' birds.

BirdLife Cyprus is working to bring an end to illegal bird trapping. Birds trapped on limesticks and in nets die a horrible death and are then sold for profit to be eaten as an expensive 'delicacy'. Many birds of threatened species fall foul to the indiscriminate nets and glue sticks. A recent opinion poll showed that the majority of Cypriots are against this illegal activity.

Bird trapping was declared illegal 30 years ago, but it still continues to be a black mark against Cyprus.

So far, BirdLife has recorded 58 priority species for Europe such as owls, masked shrikes and birds of prey caught in nets and limesticks. Endemic species like the Cyprus Wheatear have also been found trapped. Bird trapping is a money making activity that fetches thousands of euros in profits to those involved, whether they are trappers or restaurateurs who serve the birds at their establishments illegally.

Increased enforcement in recent years has curbed trapping levels substantially – about 80% – but has also given rise to more 'specialized' trappers who are more organized and

well equipped. The most important motive is financial with the price of a dozen song birds being around 60 - 80 euros.

BirdLife Cyprus carried out a count of birds illegally killed by trappers in Cyprus using mist nets and lime sticks between September 1<sup>st</sup> and the end of October 2011.

This death toll, updated weekly, was based on systematic monitoring of trapping activity in the field. It amounted this year to **1,447,308 birds**. Although only an estimate, it shows the extent of the problem out there in the killing fields of the Famagusta and Larnaca Districts of Cyprus.

<http://www.birdlifecyprus.org/> (in Greek and English).

Latest news:

In Nicosia, on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, the Cyprus Interior Minister received from **BirdLife Cyprus** 16,677 signatures, from 150 countries, calling for more action against illegal bird trapping. The petition calls for the adoption of a 'zero tolerance' approach to trapping, as promised at the Bern Convention conference (July 2011).

## NEW ZEALAND

### REPORT OF A RESCUE

Liberian-flagged ship *Rena* hit the Astrolabe Reef, some 232 kilometres off the North Island Coast of New Zealand on October 6 2011. Her hull was breached and about 300 tons of heavy fuel started to leak into the Bay of Plenty.

**Our contact in Auckland, NZ Bird Rescue volunteer Sandra Kyle, visited the Oiled Bird Response unit in Tauranga 10 days after the initial grounding of the *Rena*.**

**This is her report.**

'I am writing this as the last tank on board the *Rena* is being pumped dry of its 358 tonnes of oil, and some of the 4,000 registered volunteers are on the 100th beach cleanup at Papamoa. Around 1400 birds are known to have died, and we can only guess the actual amount of oil-soaked birds who have drowned, or, having incurred damage to their feathers, became easy prey for predators. New Zealand is known as the seabird capital of the world, and as the oil spill sadly coincided with the breeding season, the effects from the *Rena* oil spill are likely to be felt for years to come.

There was a magnificent response to the disaster - a combined effort of professional agencies and volunteers from New Zealand and abroad. From the public interest in the disaster, to the amount of people willing to volunteer, to the people who knitted and sent in jumpers for Little Blue Penguins, it is heartening to see that New Zealanders really care about our wildlife.

Within hours of the *Rena* grounding, Maritime New Zealand had declared a level 3 emergency, and while work began on the salvage and beach clean-ups, the task of constructing a wildlife facility near Papamoa was started on Day One, ready to receive marine birds who inevitably would be affected by any oil spilled.

The first birds came in three days later, found floating in the water near the vessel, and within a week, hundreds of dead birds, mainly Little Blue Penguins, had been found washed up on

beaches from Maketu to Mt Maunganui. This area is frequented by the rare and endangered New Zealand Dotterel, and to save them from being contaminated from oil, wildlife teams began capturing them pre-emptively to ensure the sustainability of the population.

When I visited the Wildlife Response Centre, there were about 100 live birds in care. Around 1,000 birds who had succumbed to the oil were being stored in the Post-Mortem tent awaiting sorting and biodata tests to be completed.

When a live oiled bird comes into the centre it is processed at the 'Intake Tent' where it is triaged, tagged and has bloods taken. Then it goes into a heated holding pen where it is monitored, and tube fed until it is its turn to be washed. It is first coated in canola oil to loosen the denser oil, then washed repeatedly – and very carefully – in warm water mixed with dishwashing detergent until all the oil has been removed. The bird is then taken to be rinsed, which involves washing it with a high pressure hose. Neither washing nor rinsing is very comfortable for the bird, but it is absolutely essential to make sure every bit of oil and detergent is out, otherwise the bird will not be able to waterproof itself again, and will die as soon as it is released back into the wild.

After 20 minutes of washing, and 10-15 minutes of rinsing (for a penguin), the bird is finally 'clean'. From here it is transported to the 'Clean' tent where it is put under a heat lamp to recover. The birds are tube-fed and hydrated, and taken to the pools for their daily swims. Of all the penguins washed, only one had not made it through the process, but I fear that wasn't the same for other, less robust, birds.

Although most of the affected birds were penguins, there were also diving petrels, white fronted terns, fluttering shearwaters, albatrosses, dotterels and kingfishers who were being processed at the Centre. Our marine birds are particularly vulnerable to oil spills, and at a time when offshore drilling is being debated, it begs the question of how we will be able to respond to a much bigger disaster, should it occur.'

Update: It was reported on January 8 2012 that the Rena, wedged on a reef, had split in two, with a further risk of the remaining oil leaking into the sea.

## **Bird Rescue NEW ZEALAND**

This is the group for which Sandra volunteers. Their centres accept and care for all New Zealand birds and wildlife, whether they are native, non-native or pet. They assist thousands of birds each year, victims of cat attacks, road accidents, pollution - such as fishing line and nylon entanglements and botulism - or human cruelty.

**Bird Rescue** was originally formed in 1984 and the foundation members from the early years are still with them today. With the bequest, the members formed the *New Zealand Bird Rescue Charitable Trust* so that they can further continue the work. Their vision is to build a Bird Rescue Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre and develop it into a world-class facility.

They also seek caring adoptive homes. Their birds are for adoption as pets only, after home visits, and breeders are not accepted. An appropriate donation enables them to continue work both with the rehabilitation of wild and pet birds.

Some of the birds which come into the centre for treatment are:

## ***New Zealand Tui***

The *Tui* is a native of New Zealand and the name is Maori. Tui have distinctive and beautiful croaking, gurgling melodies, also singing at night, especially in the full moon period. Their diet is mainly nectar - New Zealand Flax is their favourite - but they also feed on fruit and insects and occasionally pollen and seeds. Tui are considered to be extremely intelligent birds, can imitate human speech and are very territorial, in some instances fighting to the death.

“We get a lot of Tui brought to our centres. Tui babies are often mistaken for Myna babies, so it is important that they are brought to a centre so that they can be identified – their diet is very different from a Myna chick’s.”

## ***Kereru***

The *Kereru* is New Zealand’s only endemic pigeon. They make occasional soft cooing sounds and their wings make a very distinctive “whooshing” sound as they fly. In flight they will ascend slowly before making impressively steep parabolic dives which are thought to be associated with nesting, or nest failure.

The *Kereru* predominately eat fruit from native trees, but they also enjoy leaves and buds and at certain times of year, when fruit is scarce, leaves comprise most of their diet. They are frequently found in the Kowhai trees and often their crops are so full of berries they have difficulty taking off as they are too heavy, leaving them exposed to predation. With the extinction of the Moa and the Huia, the *Kereru* are now the only bird capable of ingesting the large fruit and berries of New Zealand’s native trees and dispersing their seeds.

*Kereru* are found mostly in the lowland forests of the North, South and Stewart Islands. Numbers have been gradually decreasing with loss of habitat.

The *Kereru* breeds in the spring and early summer, constructing nests which are an interesting flimsy platform of a single layer of twigs with the contents of the nest being seen from the ground. The female lays a single egg, with both adults sharing the responsibility of brooding during the 28 day incubation period, the hen through the night and the male in the day, much as pigeons in Europe do. Interestingly, the young stay with their parents for up to two years. Please visit: [www.birdrescue.org.nz](http://www.birdrescue.org.nz)

## **CAMPAIGNING NEWS**

### **Wild Animals in Circuses.**

**The Captive Animals’ Protection Society** and the **Born Free Foundation** have called upon the Government to make their position clear on wild animals in circuses as the two organisations stated their intention to look to the High Court to clarify the nature of the “legal obstacles” that Defra officials and Ministers claim are standing in the way of a ban on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses.

In a letter to the Secretary of State on the 23rd December 2011, the two organizations expressed their frustration at the Government’s failure to make its decision clear. The previous government’s 2010 public consultation process revealed 94.5% of respondents called for a ban, and the unanimous motion passed by MPs in June 2011 was “directing” the Government to implement one.

In spite of this, the Government has apparently opted to license the use of wild animals in circuses; a process considered unworkable by animal organisations. Numerous statements from Defra officials have cited potential (but vague) legal obstacles to a ban, referring to an ongoing court case challenging an Austrian ban, as an example of what could happen here. However, in the week preceding the letter to Defra, the Austrian case was dismissed by the Constitutional Court in Vienna. Furthermore, reports from Greece in the last few days have indicated that a ban on the use of performing animals in circuses and “circus-like” performances is on its way in.

The charities have appealed to the Government to clarify whether or not the perceived legal obstacles are still cause for concern. If unspecified legal difficulties remain, the two groups will consider going to the High Court to try to overcome the current stalemate using the Judicial Review process as part of “friendly proceedings” in which the Secretary of State would be the named respondent. To date, the Government has refused to release the legal advice surrounding its stance and the charities hope to make an announcement on next steps in the process in the coming weeks.

**Liz Tyson, Director of CAPS:**

“We sincerely hope that the resolution of the Austrian court case will give rise to the Government taking the decision to make good their promise to listen to the will of the House of Commons and we are eager to clarify their next steps. If the perceived legal obstacles persist then the only way we can see to resolve the current impasse is to take the matter to court. We can speculate forever about what the outcome of a legal challenge to a ban might be and, during this procrastination period, animals will continue to suffer. We are asking Defra to allow this process to be decided once and for all and to work with us to seek a solution.”

**Will Travers, CEO of the Born Free Foundation** added:

Having personally worked on this issue now for nearly two decades and in light of overwhelming public, Parliamentary and professional support for a ban, the Born Free Foundation and its supporters sincerely hope Defra will drop its plans for regulation and decisively act to humanely end this form of wild animal exploitation. I had hoped that we would not see wild animals being subjected to life on the road when the circuses season starts again in the spring. Sadly, this is not going to be the case.”

[www.captiveanimals.org](http://www.captiveanimals.org) [www.bornfree.org.uk](http://www.bornfree.org.uk)

## **DIGEST OF WELFARE AND CAMPAIGNING NEWS**

### **UKRAINE - A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD.**

We have all been horrified by news of the destruction of street animals in Ukraine and this not uncommon lethal response was intensified in preparation for their joint hosting with Poland of the 14<sup>th</sup>. UEFA European Football Championships in 2012.

In company with many others, QCA wrote on several occasions to the President of UEFA, Michel Platini.

The Cheltenham-based animal advocacy group **Naturewatch**, whom we support, writes: “For the past two years *Naturewatch* has maintained an intensive international campaign against the poisoning and killing of stray animals in Ukraine, regularly exposing mass killings of stray animals by the four Ukrainian host cities of the EURO 2012 Football Championship, allegedly to clean the streets in preparation for the massive influx of foreign football supporters.

To mark *World Animal Day* on 4 October, World Animal Day Ambassadors, representing 62 countries around the globe, signed a joint letter to Ukraine’s President supporting the *Naturewatch* call for an end to the barbaric killing of stray dogs before EURO 2012. In addition, thousands of letters were sent to UEFA’s President by *Naturewatch* supporters.

On 13 November, with just six months remaining before the Championship begins, *Naturewatch* representatives met with the Minister of Environment, Mr Mykola Zlochevsky, to discuss the matter. The meeting was a great success, with the Minister agreeing to adopt amendments to the Ukrainian legislation regarding the treatment of stray animals, and acting upon our further request of an immediate moratorium on the killing of stray animals to be implemented in each of the four cities hosting EURO 2012. On 17 November, this wonderful news was announced to the media by The Environment Minister.

UEFA has been thanked for its key role in persuading the Ukrainian authorities to immediately stop the killing of stray dogs and implement measures that respect the dignity of animals.

*Naturewatch*’s campaign and fundraising director **John Ruane** added that Mr Zlochevsky had asked the group ‘to provide the Ukrainian authorities with best practices on shelter construction and humane stray population programmes’ and *Naturewatch* informed UEFA that it will be visiting Ukraine again shortly with appropriate proposals.”

Please go to [www.naturewatch.eu](http://www.naturewatch.eu) for comprehensive coverage of their excellent work in Ukraine, as in many other regions.

## **SPAIN - CYD Santa María Association and Rescue Centre**

***CYD Santa María Association and Rescue Centre*** is a refuge in Málaga for abandoned and mistreated horses. We work non-stop to defend the rights of animals, mainly equines. We do not receive any government grants and are completely independent from other associations – both public and private.

The CYD Santa María association and refuge are, above all, a non-profit making group which does not use animals – especially as many have been abandoned and /or mistreated - for any type of commercial activities.

The CYD Santa María Association concentrates its efforts in three basic areas of work.

- Information is necessary so that everyone knows his or her rights and responsibilities. Many people do harm through ignorance. The association considers that it is very important to inform people through conferences, talks and other means of communication about the laws for animal protection.

- Education is an essential instrument in the area of prevention. The association and rescue centre co-ordinate activities so that young people can meet the animals and see for themselves some of the consequences of mistreatment and abandonment.

- The motto of the association is “One day it won’t be unusual to report bad treatment.” Every day there are more and more people who realise that reporting mistreatment of animals to the authorities is the responsibility of all citizens and that this is something which must be done. No more “looking the other way” when a living creature is suffering.

### **The Rescue Centre.**

The help offered by the CYD Santa María Rescue Centre is translated into saved lives, dignified deaths and, perhaps what is more important, in reducing pain to the absolute minimum. The centre collects equines which have been mistreated, abandoned, involved in accidents, or which are dying. Thanks to the help of volunteers and the effort and dedication of the personnel of the centre, the horses are looked after twenty-four hours a day, in spite of the scarcity of resources.

<http://www.asociacioncydsantamaria.es/cyd/> - site in Spanish and English.

### **CATS AT A RUSSIAN CONVENT**

James Hogan, our friend at the *Mayhew Animal Home/Mayhew International* in Kensal Green, London, is recently returned from a trip to Russia and reports on the cats living at the Orthodox convent in Baryatino, Kaluga, with which he has a personal connection. This is not a Mayhew project, whose work takes place in Moscow.

James writes:

‘They do all the things you would expect of a convent, but with the animal rescue dimension added on. Apart from the neutering operations, which are carried out by a local vet, they are a very capable group of women on the animal care side and are able to deal with most conditions and health issues. I always find the cats in tip top condition and it is a delightful experience to see how well the daily activities of the convent have incorporated the needs of animals into their routines.’

A young nun, mindful of our duty towards our fellow creatures, offers this essay:

#### **LOVE REIGNS**

It is widely believed that a monastery represents paradise on earth. So what is it like, paradise? There is beauty and love there, and a lion lies next to a lamb. An ideal monastery is full of flowers and the animals tamed there are surrounded by kindness, tenderness and are not short of food.

However, we should recognize the gap between our dreams and reality. Because in real life, relations between people and animals can be a very sad story. One of my friends told me that there was a monastery where the monks transported twenty cats to the forest in severe winter to certain death. Unfortunately, this case is not the first, and not the second, but it is rather a regular practice in many modern monasteries. The only thing you want to do is to ask those people in robes and *klobuks* if they don’t feel pangs of conscience and if they don’t consider themselves to be murderers.

Yes, I have heard that nowadays there is a weird belief that it is not religious to love cats and dogs; you should love God and people, because animals don’t inherit paradise, and so

they are just creatures that prevent us from praying and committing other good deeds. I am afraid I don't agree with this opinion, because isn't it the most important Christian virtue to love and to sympathise with those in need? However much we pray and fast, if we don't love, we are, according to an apostle, sounding brass or a ringing cymbal. But evangelic love is universal rather than selective. We cannot put down a dog and pray to the God of love. And on the other hand, if you find a kitten in the street and tame it, you will feel God bless you, believe me. Because love for a kitten will allow you to rise up to love all creatures, all people. Whereas indifference and hatred deprive us of the image and likeness of God. You may object to that by saying that it is not written in the Gospel that cats and dogs are the neighbours we should love. But why didn't Saint Gerasim of Jordan ignore an injured lion, but acted as the good Samaritan instead? Why didn't Saints Sergiy and Serafim shut the door to hungry bears? Why did monastic elder Paisiy of Svyatogorsk pray for a sick kitten and a monk in Optina desert take pity on wolves that felt cold in a winter forest? There are thousands of examples of kindness towards animals.

Saint Jacob Sirin wrote: 'A merciful heart is kind to all creatures, to people, to birds, to animals and to all beings.' Love for God is love for His creatures. And if we should be kindly disposed to all *things*, so, it goes without saying, we should be kind to animals, living by us. If anyone who causes the violent death of an animal feels calm and content afterwards, he needs to have his brains tested.

We have tamed over 60 cats in our monastery. There's no doubt it's very difficult to look after them all, but we have no choice. We don't take them in just for pleasure and sentimental reasons, but because circumstances are beyond our control. We work, we pray, we pay to look after for these animals, and the heart fills with joy, when we see the pleased cats' faces.

Everything rejoices around a praying person, nature becomes beautiful, wild animals calm down, all the spite and passions of the world become serene, love envelopes everything.

Isn't there love enough for a homeless kitten or puppy?

~ By **Sister Anastasia**.

Sister Anastasia is also called Sister **Sergiya**, in honour of St. Sergius of Radonezh who, along with St. Seraphim of Sarov, is one of Russia's most revered saints; Anastasia mentions them in her article.

Apart from his contribution towards the development of the monastic movement, especially in Northern Russia, St. Sergius was a lover of nature and Orthodox believers will often refer to his love of animals. His encounter with a bear is widely circulated in Orthodox circles.

*The eyes of my soul were opened, and I discerned the fullness of God in which I understood the whole world, here and beyond the sea, the abyss, the ocean, everything. My soul was brimming over with wonder and I cried out..."The world is full of God!"*

~ **Blessed Angela of Foligno** 1248-1309. She had a special love of St. Francis.

## THE PHILIPPINES

### Zen Cats

**Diane Williams**, a member of **Chester LM**, introduces her friend **Rosemary Yates Cragg**, who writes:

'I am a Briton living south of Manila in the Philippines. A couple of years ago I learned of *Trap Neuter Return (TNR)* as the humane way of dealing with colonies of feral cats and obtained the approval to start a TNR project here in the village. It's a new residential development and we realise that now is the time to manage the community cats to avoid their multiplying and being seen as a problem. We hope this way to avoid any cruelty to the cats who've already made their home here.

Multiplying cats are a real problem in the Philippines. They may be treated cruelly, most cats are fed on rice and left overs, or must fend for themselves, leading to scavenging, fighting and malnutrition. The cats sometimes retaliate and many are hardly friendly.

Our first challenge is to convince people that neutering their cats will cut down problems, thereby reducing cruelty to them; many people do love them and do their best to care for them with limited means. It's part of our mission to help people to better understand how to do this and to help with spaying and neutering.

My TNR project led to frequent visits to the local veterinary clinic, whose senior vet is a professor of veterinary medicine at the University of the Philippines and he and his wife, who runs the clinic, have become good friends.

During our many visits to them with the community cats we've trapped, we discussed the neglect and maltreatment of animals and widespread ignorance of animal welfare until, in an attempt to help change awareness in the community of the role that cats play and to teach the benefits of kindness to animals, in early 2011 we set up an NGO, **Zen Cats**, and have made it our first priority to take a team of vets and final year students of veterinary medicine into community halls in the south of Metro Manila to carry out free-of-charge neutering of cats for local residents.

*Zen Cats* has now carried out a number of free spay and neuter days, with a schedule planned for 2012. Cruelty and neglect of animals happens all too often. Recently I was asked to deliver a letter written by a major animal welfare organisation in Manila to the owners of two desperately neglected dogs which had been reported to them by an animal-loving neighbour. The owners had tried to sell them to dog catchers who are another unfortunate (and illegal) fact of life here. The *Animal Welfare Act of 1998* and the *Anti-Rabies Act* both make the dog meat trade illegal, but these acts are inadequately enforced and dog meat makes a cheap and popular snack to eat with a drink here, as in a number of other countries in Asia. Tootsie and his friend Brownie were lucky that they were just too skinny for the dog catcher to take. They're now officially and legally re-homed and - thanks to the generosity of a local pet food manufacturer - they have a guaranteed food supply until they're fit and fully recovered from their three-year starvation ordeal.

The mood here is changing, if only gradually. Our friendly animal nutritionist, the donor of dog food for Tootsie and Brownie, has noticed a surge of enquiries for cat food over the

past two years or so and has responded by introducing a locally-produced line of dry cat food at a price considerably lower than imported cat food; more small animal clinics are opening where, before, vets mainly went into livestock and agriculture.

On October 3 this year the first *Philippine Animal Advocates Conference for Transformation or PAACT* took place in Manila, organized by the three leading animal welfare groups in the country - **Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)**, **Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF)** and **Compassion and Responsibility for Animals (CARA)** -as part of the celebration of *World Animal Day*. Eleven local animal welfare groups- including *Zen Cats* - plus representatives from the government and academic sector joined in the brainstorming on how to improve Filipino society's treatment of animals.

There's a long way to go, but at least we've made a start. However, we have to look overseas for funding for the medical supplies we need, as this country lacks money even for healthcare, education and social welfare for its people. To date we've been lucky enough to receive cash donations from two private individuals in the United States, plus a box of medical supplies from a UK charity - **Worldwide Veterinary Supplies (WVS)**. We are all volunteering our time and out of pocket expenses so that every penny we receive can be used for anaesthetics and other supplies.

Our website is [www.zencats.org](http://www.zencats.org) and we have a Facebook page, if anyone is kind enough to want to help us.'

<http://www.facebook.com/ZenCatsAssociation?sk=info> contact.us@zencats.org

## CORRESPONDENCE

We were alerted to the situation, described below, by our member **Sandra Higgins** in County Meath, who rescues and cares for farmed animals in need.

Our letter appeared in *The Irish Times*:

*Sir, – As a consequence of the EU ban on ‘unenriched’ battery cages for egg-laying hens coming into force this week, the Irish Farmers Association reported up to 100,000 birds would have to be slaughtered earlier than normally (Home News, December 30th), as 10 farmers did not have the required cages to comply with new legislation, though they had been given some 10 years to prepare for this.*

*Members of Quaker Concern for Animals in Britain, who have close contact with your excellent campaigners, understand that the Alliance for Animal Rights (AFAR) approached IFA Poultry chairman, Alo Mohan, offering up to 400 homes for the hens in order to save them from slaughter. The group also offered to match the payment that the slaughterhouse would have made to the farmer, thus not only ensuring that the birds would have good homes, but also that the farmers were not financially compromised by this.*

*We are informed that although Mr Mohan attempted to secure the safe future of the birds by approaching the farmers with this offer, there was no response.*

*On January 4th it was announced that most of the birds had been slaughtered. Mr Mohan confirmed next day that 10 per cent of the 80-90,000 birds had still not been killed and AFAR repeated*

*the offer of payment to the farmers. We feel, with the Irish campaigners, it is sad that these birds have been deprived of their only chance of a decent life after the ordeal of being obliged to live in battery cages.*

*If any of these birds remain alive, we are appealing to those responsible to reflect and change their minds about the decision to kill them.*

*Surely we owe them that. –Yours, etc. M.H. QCA.*

We understand that **Bernie Wright** of AFAR has found Alo Mohan extremely helpful in this matter.

## **A new life at Eden**

**Sandra Higgins** writes:

Following the new EU directive banning battery cages in Ireland, we have been able to save fifteen hens from unnecessary slaughter. They are doing well, apart from the fact that some of them have significant feather loss, and others are limping on sore feet.

They are learning how to leave their new house in the mornings, but most of them still need to be carried into bed at night. They are beginning to run to us when they see us; it is incredible how quickly other animals make friends with members of the species that has caused them so much deprivation and hurt. I imagine that these hens had very little contact with humans prior to being rescued; they were, after all, regarded as production units and not beings.

Unfortunately, we cannot undo the damages caused to them by genetic modification for the egg production industry. Nor can we offer them the absolute liberty of the jungle environment they descended from. However, we will ensure that they have a degree of liberty, lots of space, good food, green grass, an area for dust bathing, a comfortable, clean house with private nest boxes and perches, veterinary care when necessary, a lot of love, and every opportunity to find joy in their lives.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who offered us the encouragement, advice, support and financial help that enabled us to have the privilege of offering these girls a home.

Visit Sandra's sanctuary at: <http://www.edenfarmanimalsanctuary.com>

Ecclesiastes 3:19-21

For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts; for all is vanity. All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down to the earth?

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

**John Fitzgerald** of the *Campaign Against Bloodsports* writes:

My book *Bad Hare Days*, about the anti-hare coursing campaign in Ireland and its impact on the campaigners, is now available as a free e-book.

I am hopeful that the book's wider availability will assist the campaign to abolish this medieval so-called 'sport'. There are many books promoting blood sports in shops and libraries, but this one promotes the campaign to protect the Irish Hare from the organized savagery of coursing clubs, while also highlighting the sacrifices that campaigners have had to endure over the years for taking up this cause.

I hope that campaigners against the various forms of animal cruelty and exploitation in whatever country may find the book useful or of interest.

*Bad Hare Days* can be read or downloaded at either of the two links below:

<http://banbloodsports.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/bad-hare-days.pdf>

or: [www.tinyurl.com/downloadbhd](http://www.tinyurl.com/downloadbhd)

### **Shanti the Grass-eating Lion – Paul Sinclair**

This is a charity book for both children and adults to fundraise for orphanages; helping to find, free and rehabilitate child slaves and heal child soldiers.

It is mostly based on Jesus' Sermon of the Mount teachings, bringing the full power of his message of non-violence and forgiveness to life in a simple and exciting way that captures the hearts of young and old alike.

It also comes with free website resources, including a spiritual commentary and a comprehensive website to help get children and young people into group volunteering; it lists over a hundred projects they can get involved in to make the world a better place.

£4.99 (including p. and p.)

Full reviews and ordering information are available at:

<http://www.grasseatinglion.org/lion-book.htm>

A review by **Kiran**, aged 11:

*The book is about a lion cub found in a jungle by some villagers. They take the cub into their care but find him eating their cattle and end up driving him back to the jungle.*

*The cub then swears never to eat meat again and is gifted with the power of speech.*

*Shanti is my favourite character because he seems like a very wise and caring lion. He always helps the villagers when they are in trouble and that shows that he cares for them.*

*I think that all of the messages in this book are important, but the message that fighting does not solve anything is one very important message.*

*The book was very interesting and it had many little entertaining stories in it. But they all had important messages which told lessons of what happens if you do something bad.*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **QUAKER CONCERN FOR ANIMALS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 12 2012**

At **Friends' House**, 173, Euston Road, London.

Speaker: Our patron **André Menache**, veterinarian and director of *Antidote-Europe*, will address us on:

*Animal Welfare achievements over the past year*

### **Catholic Concern for Animals Ecumenical Animal Welfare Retreat**

July 25-27 2012

Holland House, Cropthorne, Worcestershire.

Contact **Irene Casey** on 01925 657890

### **PURPLE POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE OF ANIMALS IN WAR**

Services for Remembrance will be held on **Sunday November 11 2012**

Our involvement with Animal Aid's campaign is developing – please contact us for more details if you would like to participate in your town.



Portrait of a hen by Nanci Swann, page 14



Hen freed from a battery, page 25



A pair of Tuis, page 18



Sister Anastasia and the cats, page 22



Father Tomasz greets a dog, page 10



Lady at the QHA Open Christmas, page 6