

Quaker Concern for Animals



NEWSLETTER –AUTUMN 2008

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)

www.quaker-animals.org.uk

£1

HOW TO JOIN QUAKER CONCERN FOR ANIMALS

Please complete the following form and send to our Treasurer:

Ros Lowther, 43, Wirral Gardens, Bebington, Wirral CH63 3BD.

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Telephone number, if available:

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Meeting attended, if appropriate:

Please make cheques payable to **Quaker Concern for Animals**.

Please note, we regret we cannot accept CAF cheques.



COMMITTEE OF QUAKER CONCERN FOR ANIMALS - 2007 - 2008

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*We are not human beings following a spiritual path,
but spiritual beings following a human path.*

~ attributed to John Wilhelm Rowntree 1868 – 1905

EATING OUR PLANET TO DEATH?

Quaker Concern for Animals AGM 10 May, Friends' House.

Animals reared to be eaten by humans are the second biggest cause of global warming. This was the main theme of an illuminating talk given by **Tony Wardle**, associate director of the animal welfare campaigning organisation **Viva!** at the Quaker Concern for Animals AGM.

Eighty per cent of crops, such as oil seed rape, barley, wheat and maize are grown for animal feed. Producing animal feed now takes up 70 per cent of all farmed land worldwide. It takes 17 kilograms of (fodder) to produce one gram of animal protein in cattle. In addition, these animals drink vast amounts of water.

Deforestation continues apace so that millions more animals can graze, or for the production of soya which is now mostly fed to the massive numbers of animals being reared to satisfy our addiction to meat. Deforestation also involves clearing all the animal and plant life therein. Forests have thin soil which means the cleared land has a limited life span for grazing of perhaps just ten years. After then it turns to desert.

Livestock is the single biggest industry on earth and those who deal in it are more powerful than governments. A principle source of their profit growth now comes from intensively farmed animals. The pharmaceutical companies produce chemicals to be sprayed on the crops. Animals that are farmed, tightly packed in cruel factory conditions become unhealthy. The pharmaceutical companies also produce medicines for sick, intensively farmed animals.

There are food riots world-wide now, but biofuels are not the main problem. People are starving because 70 per cent of land around the world is grown for food to be eaten by animals bred for human consumption.

These were just some of the comments made by QCA AGM guest speaker Tony Wardle whose findings are published in **Diet of Despair*. Animal farming and the environment is high on the Viva! agenda but the organisation has also exposed and campaigned specifically in the UK against factory turkey and duck farming, supermarket sale of kangaroo meat, the sale of *foie gras* and the fad for 'exotic' meats from animals such as zebras, ostriches, emus and crocodiles. Viva!, founded in 1994 and with a tiny staff of just 22 people, always campaigns peacefully and has brought about significant change.

Diet of Disaster by Tony Wardle, associate director of Viva!, £3.50, published by Viva! Campaigns. ISBN 978-0-9547216-6-4 A fully referenced version of this report can be viewed at: www.viva.org.uk/hot/dietofdisaster

~ **Ann Johnson.**

QCA Day in Wales on 5th April 2008 at Bangor Friends' Meeting House

After a short period of silence, during which Advices & Queries 42 was read out, **Lesley Tarleton of Freshfields Animal Rescue, Caernarfon**, spoke on *“Thirty years in animal welfare”*.

Lesley founded two animal shelters, the first in Crosby, Liverpool, and then six years ago, she moved to a smallholding in North Wales.

The story began when Lesley, in conversation at the vet's, discovered that a puppy was put down as the owner no longer wanted her. Lesley told the vet that, should that happen again, they should call her and she would collect the dog and find a home. She returned home to find the phone already ringing... Word spread among the vets and the number of unwanted animals became overwhelming. Lesley arranged a reduced rate with a local kennel to house the dogs and registered with the Charity Commission. By then, cats were also turning up, so proper premises were needed. Having raised £15,000 and with a benefactor's further £15,000, Lesley sold her home and bought what is now the Liverpool shelter – still in constant demand. A legacy has been promised of a house with its own land. In time, this will be used as a wildlife shelter; wild animals need to be further from human traffic and in a quieter location than the current Crosby site can offer.

Freshfields looks after thousands of animals and birds each year – domestic, wild, and farmed. At the North Wales shelter, there are horses, a cattery, and Lesley would like to expand the kennels, but is currently limited by local conditions. She feels that the area is lacking in rescue facilities for dogs and works with PAWS and the RSPCA in Colwyn Bay. Many of the dogs she sees are ex-farming; “sheep chasers”, with otherwise good temperaments, are forwarded to the Liverpool shelter for re-homing. Despite the restrictions, she nevertheless manages to pair up the homeless with potential new homes via phone or personal contact.

The North Wales shelter is not yet well enough established financially to be able to vaccinate all the cats there, although all dogs are, but every cat does leave neutered and micro-chipped.

The Caernarfon site currently has twenty-two horses, eighty cats, fifteen dogs, three sheep, and three pigs, supported by fundraising in six charity shops.

The organiser of the day, **Fiona Owen of Holyhead Meeting**, spoke on *“Extending the circle of compassion: reading and writing animal poetry”*. Through her poetry, she seeks to help bring the universe into focus, to use words to move beyond the surface, to express her experiences of direct encounters with other beings: some of the most profound have been with tiny creatures she meets in her garden. Fiona read some of her poems: *August caterpillar*; *To do this thing*, which was inspired by an Animal Aid photograph of the wrecked body of a fox caught by hounds; and a quartet *Making elderflower cordial*; *Armageddon*; *Sprouts*; *Beetle*; finishing with a haiku entitled *Snail*. Fiona's powerful poetry elegantly supports her belief that through language we can experience being “the other” and go into their suffering.

Alison Leonard of Chester Meeting spoke on *“Our spiritual connection with animals – how might we develop it?”*

Alison spoke of her search for the feminine face of the divine, the goddess and how to rebalance

the world. At an annual Goddess Conference held at Glastonbury she attended a workshop called “trance postures”. She described how, during meditation, she experienced a strong sense of being a prey animal, and how her spirit was hovering above the death scene. This experience changed how Alison sees the nature of her being; that probably by some spiritual, rather than genetic way, some part of her has lived an animal life; that there must be no gap between her and the rest of the created world. She suggests that we should not divide ourselves from the rest of nature, that when we damage creation, we damage ourselves; that to feel at one with nature feels like truth. Life pervades every single aspect of creation and respect for it is the only proper response.

Alison proposed that we might develop this connection through humility; through remembering that we are all kin, despite species’ genetic differences; by finding out about our similarities and differences; and through prayer and daily blessing of specific beings.

A wide-ranging conversation ensued, during which friends discussed human nature, violence in the natural world, whether we attribute too much to other animals, how each individual can make a difference, identifying with “the other” and how the biblical “dominion” should rather be considered “responsibility” towards creation.

~ **Fiona Owen, Holyhead Meeting and Ros Lowther, Heswall Meeting.**

Many thanks to Fiona and Ros for successfully running this event without any interference from the clerk, who was ill.

*God bless the grass that grows through the crack
They roll the cement over it and try to keep it back
The concrete gets tired of what it has to do
It breaks and it buckles and the grass grows through
And God bless the grass . . .*

~ **Malvina Reynolds**, singer and songwriter.

MEMBERS’ NEWS

JOAN STANDS UP FOR WHALES

Joan Court, our committee member, was escorted from the Japanese Embassy by police after staging a sit-in protest against commercial whaling...

Joan took part in a *Sea Shepherd Conservation Society* – of which she is a crew member – protest in March 08. Joan protested peacefully inside the embassy for half an hour – in the face of requests from security guards to leave. Asked what drives her, the former nurse and child protection officer said: “Intense love of animals – I do not like to see creatures exposed to suffering.”

Sea Shepherd protesters, who also scaled the embassy to remove the Japanese flag, were marking the start of an International Whaling Commission summit. Japan wants the ban

on commercial whaling to be lifted. Miss Court and four other campaigners saw the police disperse following the initial protest outside the embassy and then walked in.

~ *Thanks to the Cambridge Evening News for their report, of which this is an extract.*

We are delighted to report that we have made Joan Court and Beryl Spence life-members of QCA, in recognition of their excellent and long service, both to the work of our group and our fellow beings in general.

THE LORD ERSKINE AWARD

Joan Court has again received recognition for her many years' work for animals and is now the recipient of the RSPCA's Lord Erskine Award.

This award, which is presented "to an individual or organisation not necessarily directly associated with the RSPCA" commemorates animal welfare pioneer Lord Erskine of Restormel, who, in 1809, successfully introduced a Bill to Parliament "to prevent malicious and wanton cruelty to animals".

Joan received the award at the AGM on June 28. We would like to offer our congratulations to Joan for this well-deserved award.

Joan writes:

I was surprised to get this award from the "Establishment", but happy to have the opportunity to make a short speech in which I focused on the need for the RSPCA and Animal Rights movements to learn about each other's activities; at present both are astonishingly unaware of the great work done by both and we need each other.

I said how great it is to have only vegan food at the AGM – which stops people like me feeling compelled to walk through the restaurant bearing placards declaring "Meat is Murder", as some representatives ate their so-called Freedom Food sandwiches.

On a practical note, I suggested that the RSPCA had a stall at the *Living without Cruelty* fair – they could show some of their inspiring videos. If the Society fails to attract young members, it will over time be represented only by middle-aged, middle-class Guardian readers.

I was glad to be honoured in Lord Erskine's name. He was an eccentric, determined and charismatic character, with an intense love of all sentient beings. He was perhaps inspired by his magnificent Newfoundland, Toss, who sat on a chair with him in all consultations in chambers, with advocate's bands round his neck and on the desk he had two jars of water with his "pet" leeches whom he believed saved his life in a recent illness. Such eccentricity did not hinder his successful campaign to get the Bill passed in 1809.

He wrote of the capacity of animals to feel all the emotions felt by human beings and he recognised that they were regarded as property only and had no rights – astonishing statements at that time.

He wrote: "Almost every sense bestowed upon man is equally bestowed on them: seeing, hearing, feeling, thinking, the sense of pain and pleasure, the passions of love and anger, sensibility to kindness and pangs from unkindness and neglect, are inseparable characteristics of their nature as much as of our own..."

He regarded our duty to care for animals as *a moral trust*, his sentiments reflecting his strong religious beliefs.

I sat at lunch with Richard Ryder and Professor Webster from Bristol. The latter has done so much to promote the welfare of farm animals and to expose the suffering endured in factory farms.

In the Main Assembly, Caroline Lucas (a Vice President of the RSPCA and Green MEP) gave an inspiring address on animal welfare issues in the EU.

Angela Walder spoke against a motion on dogs being excluded from animal experimentation, as the Great Apes are, saying that all animals are equal and none more equal than others – a sentiment applauded by all. Angela has been voted back onto the Council to continue her magnificent and brave challenge against apathy, bureaucracy and ignorance.

Angela Walder, our Scientific Advisor, is a RSPCA trustee.

We thank *Alison Green of Dog Magazine* for her report on the conference, part of which follows:

At the conference, whilst discussing so-called dangerous breeds, **Angela Walder** asked if dog registration is the answer to today's problems. She mentioned that animal centres are under pressure and that the RSPCA takes in dogs many turn away and avoids at all costs their destruction, though some breeds are harder than others to rehome.

Referring to registration schemes in different parts of the world, Angela said that in Australia there is enough money available from the licence fee to fund a pet education centre.

New Zealand has a high licence fee, which is closely monitored. If guardians have their dogs neutered, the fee falls by over 60%, with other reductions if they complete a one day care course. Microchipping was made compulsory there in 2006.

Speaking about the U.K, Angela would like to see all strays chipped before being returned to their homes.

Simon Ovens of the Metropolitan Police asked about RSPCA presence in schools. RSPCA had previously stated that they speak to the teachers, and not the kids in class. Mr Ovens wanted to know if we weren't "missing a trick" by not speaking with the kids directly. RSPCA replied that if an area had a particular problem, they could gain access to talk directly to them.

Speaking about achieving a reduction in the overall number of dogs, Angela expressed a wish to "stop the breeders" and have happier, healthier dogs. Bill Lambert of the Kennel Club asked why Angela had not mentioned "responsible" dog breeders and she replied that there was no such thing as a responsible dog breeder. This comment provoked the biggest round of applause of the day.

The two years investigation *Pedigree Dogs Exposed*, shown on **BBC 1** on August 19 08, bore out Angela's reservations, revealing the true extent of health and welfare problems in pedigree dogs in the UK.

Seventy-five per cent of the seven million dogs in the UK are pedigrees, costing over £10m in vet fees every week. The programme suggested they are plagued by genetic disease, due

to decades of inbreeding and suffering acute problems because of the showing's emphasis on looks over and above function and health. Some physical traits required by the Kennel Club's breed standards have inherent health problems (short faces, wrinkling, screw-tails, dwarfism) while other problems occur because of exaggerations bred into dogs by breeders trying to win rosettes.

Deliberate mating of close relatives is common practice and the Kennel Club continues to register dogs bred from mother-to-son and brother-to-sister matings. Disturbing footage showed a cavalier King Charles spaniel in agony due to syringomyelia, estimated to affect up to a third of the breed. They have been bred with skulls too small for their brains, the veterinary neurologist Clare Rusbridge explained.

Boxers suffer from several life-threatening health issues – including heart disease and a very high rate of cancer, especially brain tumours.

The film also demonstrates how some breeders produce dogs with pronounced physical attributes – “exaggerations” – in their efforts to attract a dog show judge's eye.

The breed standards are set by the **Kennel Club**, but are open to interpretation and as fashion changes, so do the dogs, leading to serious health and welfare problems in some breeds. Bulldogs have been bred to be such an unnatural shape that most can no longer mate or give birth unassisted. Famous show champions continue to father puppies, despite having serious inherited disease, and some breeders cull perfectly healthy puppies on purely cosmetic grounds.

Kennel Club secretary Caroline Kisko said many of the health problems have their roots in Victorian times and inbreeding was an ‘essential tool’ in the development of breeds. The Kennel Club defended its position as the guardian of dog health, pointing out the initiatives it has taken to improve pedigree dog health – including their accredited breeder scheme which sets a code of conduct for breeders and asks them to make use of health screening schemes. It also insists that “the vast majority of dog breeds are healthy”.

Note: The Kennel Club's two main functions are to administer the registry that records the lineage of pedigree dogs, divided by breed, and to license the majority of dog shows in the UK, including Crufts. It also owns The Kennel Club Breed Standard, which lays down the characteristics and physical attributes necessary for each breed and it is involved in many different canine activities from agility competitions to obedience training to funding scientific research into dogs via its charitable trust.

~ QCA would like to compliment and thank **Angela Walder** for her work.

Introduction to Ros Lowther, our new treasurer, who writes:

“I've been working for the NHS for four years and am the Clinic Coordinator for Prenton's District Nursing and Health Visiting teams.

I realised that the charities in which I have been active, or support financially, seek to pick up the pieces left behind by violence and carelessness - and try to rekindle hope. It was a link I'd not actually made before. I feel that those with resources and power are obliged to use them to protect and promote those who are more vulnerable.

I admire QCA's methods, based on firm, but peaceful, conviction and its support of smaller and personal welfare efforts. Its most compelling quality for me, though, is its acknowledgement of the Divine spirit flowing throughout creation – life infused with the spirit, inherently worthy - value that can be neither earned nor bestowed.

Through QCA, I offer my service to support the hands-on, practical, people who help animals; I join my prayers and actions with others as we seek to bring awareness to decision-makers who are ignorant and to hold to account those who are complacent. How can I see God in creation but close my eyes to suffering? I may not do much, but I must do something. *“All we can be sure of is that everything we do, say or think cannot help having an impact on the totality, the All of which we form a part.”* Adam Curle, 1992, 29.07 Quaker Faith & Practice.”

UPDATE FROM THE QCA BRANCH IN BOURNEMOUTH MEETING

This Meeting, of which Deirdre Hill, Alan Spinks and Linda Banks are especially animal-friendly members, supports QCA most generously. They are currently donating money collected to Janet Oddie's **Animal Care in the New Forest**, which needs help with winter food supplements and vet's bills and they also take over donated cat food and treats for the equines.

QCA members in Bournemouth are currently in dispute with the RSPB, which is allowing wildfowling to shoot birds on their Langstone reserve in Hampshire. Unfortunately, Dorset Wildlife Trust has refused to be drawn into this. Linda Banks, a new member of QCA, has obtained much information on this serious issue.

The group is also continuing to campaign against bullfighting and for the Spanish hunting dogs.

Alan Spinks continues to do excellent work with the weekly stall. He gave a good speech promoting vegetarianism at their Environmental Sunday recently and Linda Banks also contributed a strong speech on animal rights.

~ many thanks once again to all at Bournemouth Meeting for their continuing donations to the work of QCA.

QUAKERS AND KINDRED ANIMALS (QUAKA)

In a previous newsletter, we reported on the animal welfare petition presented to the European Trade Commission, organised by our member **Mike Purton**, and the subsequent invitation for his **Kinship Group** to participate in their Civil Society Dialogues. Here is the follow up to that news:

FACTORY FARMS – WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

The intensive rearing of livestock has until recently been a matter of concern to only a minority of people. It was considered solely an animal welfare issue. Increasingly however, evidence is coming to light showing the serious effect it can have on the people who work in this industry.

Casual attitudes are inevitable where thousands of creatures are processed on an un-ending conveyor belt of feeding and killing. Repetition is bound to desensitise anyone to the welfare of individual animals. But to see where this can lead you only have to go on the internet, key in Cruelty on Factory Farms, and read the accounts of former employees. Almost anything you can imagine happening in an understaffed, ill-supervised environment where low overheads and high through-put are paramount – happens.

PEER PRESSURE

One of the worst cases of cruelty to get into the newspapers happened in England on a Bernard Matthews turkey farm. Two young men, using poles intended as aids for rounding up the stock, were secretly filmed playing baseball with live birds. Their lawyer said they had been influenced by “peer pressure.” He told the court: “In this sort of environment the one thing you cannot do is step outside what everyone else is doing.”

The risk of certain individuals being led into sadism is always present where respect for living creatures has been eroded. Despite the secrecy policy of the majority of factory farms, it now appears that exposure to this behaviour can lead to brutality being regarded as normal. Today, therefore, we must face the fact that what was once seen as an animal tragedy, is in fact one which embraces human beings as well.

It doesn't end there. Research suggests a clear link between cruelty to animals and violence towards people. In America, an FBI analysis showed that a high proportion of those convicted of violent crimes have histories of animal abuse. One study by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Northeastern University put it as high as seventy per cent.

At the same time it has become clear that we can no longer justify the division which we have always maintained between the animals and ourselves. In recent years science has taught us a great deal about what we and our fellow creatures have in common physically. It is now accepted that they are sentient beings which experience fear and pain as we do. In many cases their senses are far superior to our own. And these “dumb” creatures have their own means of communication.

DIFFERENCES OF DEGREE

We can no longer claim that what separates us is more than a matter of degree. And in many ways they have the advantage over us. So what grounds do we have for continuing to treat our fellow creatures as different in kind from ourselves? Encouraged by the Church, man has always clung to the soul as the single thing that separates him from the rest of creation. But spirituality in man manifests itself through such qualities as love, symbiosis and altruism. And anyone who has lived close to animals knows that these are not the monopoly of homo sapiens. Those most aware of this – and who live their lives accordingly – are indigenous peoples such as the First Nation Americans, the Inuit and the Aborigines.

The evidence today is that these groups - often looked down upon as primitive - have been right all along. Each life form is really an aspect of a single, indivisible whole. There may be variations when it comes to individual development. And we progress at the pace of the

slowest. But in the end we are one. On the factory farm – as in everything – we are in this together.

QUAKERS AND KINDRED ANIMALS (QUAKA)

Email:
valmacf@btinternet.com

Mutual affection
–Tots' Day at Edgar's
Mission in Australia

www.edgarsmission.org.au



GLORY OF INDIA AWARD

We would like to congratulate our patron, **Nitin Mehta**, on receiving this award from the *India International Friendship Society*. Previous recipients have been Mother Teresa, the cricketer Sunil Gavaskar and film star Dev Anand.

Recipients are honoured for their outstanding leadership in the field of promoting India and Indian culture in the United Kingdom, thereby making Mother India proud.

FRIENDS' VEGETARIAN SOCIETY

Would you like to join this Quaker group? Enquiries should be addressed to:
Bal Saini, 176, Stoney Lane, Sparkhill, Birmingham. bsaini@tiscali.co.uk

QUAKERS OVERSEAS

Readers may recall that our Friend **Les Mitchell in South Africa** allowed us to reprint, in the Autumn 07 newsletter, *Animals and the Discourse of Farming in Southern Africa*, which is part of his doctoral thesis entitled ***Discourse and the oppression of nonhuman animals: a critical realist account.***

We can now access his thesis through Rhodes at <http://eprints.ru.ac.za/1021/>

FROM AN AMERICAN FRIEND

Greetings from America's Heartland! I am a university professor in Normal, Illinois, two hours south of Chicago and it is a pleasure to share ideas with you. I volunteer for many organizations regarding animal issues and I am a representative for the Quaker lobby,

Friends Committee on National Legislation (www.fcnl.org). I am a Buddhist Quaker, practicing Vipassana meditation for about five years now and I have been fascinated by Quakerism for about three years. I recently had the good fortune of visiting the Quaker Meeting House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

My wife and I welcomed our first child, Natalia, to our family this summer.

Though there are reasons to feel optimistic here in the States as concerns animal issues, there is also the stark reality that we have a long way to go to achieve animal liberation. At the national level, there is finally a growing awareness that buying animals from pet stores is wrong, thanks in large part to Oprah Winfrey's TV series on puppy mills. Many of us are working on a campaign to promote pet adoption and prohibit pet stores from selling animals. Pet rescues are growing and adoption is up, but still far too many loving animals are killed every day.

On the West Coast, San Francisco is currently considering changing its zoo to a sanctuary. A big problem in the U.S. is that many people still associate zoos and circuses with entertainment and not with cruelty, so the vote is of particular importance. *(QCA note – further details later in this newsletter.)*

On the East Coast, on July 30, the New Jersey Supreme Court struck down the Department of Agriculture regulations which considered all routine husbandry practices as 'humane'. The agency must now re-evaluate many of the state-mandatory standards for the treatment of farm animals. As you may already know, many of the progressive changes in the States come from the two coasts and then work inward. The possibility of a zoo converting into a sanctuary, coupled with the court decision which sheds a positive light on the fight against factory farming, are hopefully signs of a kinder, more compassionate treatment of animals.

Here in the Midwest, two recent issues which come to mind are foie gras and the floods. The city of Chicago prohibited restaurants from serving foie gras in 2006. However, in May of this year, the city took a huge step backward by repealing the ban. Given the horrific way in which the geese are fed, it is rather sad to see a repeal of this ban, especially when we consider that the 2006 ban was the first in the country, to my knowledge. Unfortunately, this has taken some wind out of our sails as we strive to set a national ban. However, California has set a ban on foie gras to begin in 2012, though many animal rights activists fear that it will not be enforced.

The second issue is one that was caused by the floods along the Mississippi River. Many towns, including my hometown of Burlington, Iowa, have been devastated by the floods in June of this year.

The floods have left many without homes, including many animals. Iowa is predominantly an agricultural state, known for cattle and pigs. Among the animals lost were pets, many of whom were happily returned to their guardians. However, many animals were at factory farms at the time of the floods and have been left with no home to which to return. Among other groups, **Farm Sanctuary (www.farmsanctuary.org)** has been very active in ensuring safety and finding homes for these animals. As media reports come out discussing the

animals' fate, it strikes me as curious that many people show great concern for them, yet did not seem to mind that, before the floods, the animals were in factory farms, treated horribly, and destined for slaughter. While keeping abreast of the situation, I am constantly reminded of the importance of public awareness and simply 'getting the word out' with regard to factory farms. I truly believe that many people would convert to a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle if they only saw the living hell in which these animals live. I believe so, because that is exactly what happened in my case.

With regard to Friends in the U.S., the *Best Friends Animal Society* is seeking volunteers to represent the Society in a multi-faith Religious Proclamation for Animal Compassion. As a Buddhist Quaker, a great interest of mine is exploring the intersection between Buddhism and Quakerism. This is especially interesting as it pertains to how we view 'sentient beings'. I believe this proclamation will be very beneficial, as there is often confusion as to how each religion views the treatment of animals.

At a personal level, I have been working with **In Defense of Animals** with their 'Guardian Campaign' program. As a result of the campaign, many communities in the U.S. (Bloomington (Indiana), San Francisco, St. Louis), and in the entire state of Rhode Island have replaced the term 'pet owner' with 'pet guardian'; the use of 'pet guardian' suggests that we no longer view our pets as somehow 'property' that we possess and have dominion over, as in the former terms of 'master' and 'pet owner', but rather we view them as important members of our families.

May your Inner Light shine brightly.

~ **Many thanks to Benjamin Schmeiser and we wish you and your family great happiness.**

Canticle of the Sun

All praise to God for Sister Earth who bears us,
Bears rainbow flowers and fruits that meet our needs,
For Brother Rain whose touch brings joy and freshness,
Who freely gives, and never counts the deeds.
Thou brother of the genial Rain, the Spirit,
Thou sister of the bursting Seed unfurled,
Sing to the Love that fills the vast creation
Let peace bud forth and bear throughout the world.

All praise to God for Sister Birds high-soaring
Who greet the dawn with songs of lilting mirth,
For Brother Worms who make their paths slow-crawling,
The patient gardeners who till the earth.
Thou brothers of the humble Brother Francis,
Thou sisters of the angel-voiced soul,
Sing to the Love that fills the vast creation
Let songs of joy resound throughout the whole.

All praise to God for Brother Sun who warms us,
And Brother Fire, robust and quick at play,
For Sister Moon, whose light of pearl enchants us,
And Sister Stars, whose joy illumines our way.
Thou sisters of the uncreated Splendor,
Thou brothers of the Fire within our soul,
Sing to the Love that fills the vast creation,
The radiant Day of God that shows the whole.

—Francis of Assisi
paraphrased by Sr. Faith Bowman, OCG

Fellow becomes Founding Chair of New Animal Law Section of the American Association of Law Schools

Fellow of the **Ferrater Mora Oxford Animal Ethics Centre**, **Professor Joan Schaffner**, will become the Founding Chair of the newly created Section on Animal Law in the **American Association of Law Schools (AALS)**. The new Section is the result of a two-year effort spearheaded by Professor Schaffner, together with law colleagues. The petition to the AALS was submitted in February 2008, and signed by over 280 full-time law faculty and/or administrators, representing 65 law schools. The Section will host its first official panel in January 2009 at the AALS Annual Meeting in San Diego, titled: *'All Law is Animal Law: Teaching Animal Law Across the Curriculum'*.

The AALS is a non-profit association of 168 law schools, serves as the learned society for law teachers and is legal education's principal representative to the federal government and to other national higher education organisations and learned societies.

The need for the section is shown by the fact that more than eighty AALS member law schools have a class on animal law. In addition, more than 100 law schools have a student chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and there are now five Journals that are devoted to animal law: *Animal Law Review* (Lewis & Clark), *Journal of Animal Law* (Michigan State), *Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy* (Whittier), *Journal of Animal Law & Ethics* (University of Pennsylvania), and *Stanford Journal of Animal Law & Policy*.

The American practising bar also has embraced this area of the law by creating committees or sections devoted to animal law. Currently twelve state bars and the Bar of the District of Columbia have sections or committees devoted to animal law. Another nine regional bar sections or committees of animal law exist. Perhaps most significantly, the American Bar Association, Trial and Insurance Practice Section established an Animal Law Committee in 2005 which has been extremely active since its inception.

~ With thanks to the **Revd. Professor Andrew Linzey, Director of the Ferrater Mora Oxford Animal Ethics Centre**. www.oxfordanimaethics.com

HOME AND EUROPEAN NEWS

NEW LAW IN SCOTLAND TO TACKLE TRADE IN PUPPIES AND KITTENS

On June 6 08 Advocates for Animals (www.advocatesforanimals.com) welcomed new legislation making strict rules for the purchase and re-sale of puppies and kittens in Scotland. *The Licensing of Animal Dealers (Young Cats and Dogs) (Scotland) Regulations 2008* are the first new licensing provisions under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

By imposing a strict licensing regime, the new regulations will have a direct impact on the trade in puppies and kittens from puppy farms in Ireland. There are serious concerns about the welfare of animals in these farms, which have supplied thousands of puppies for sale in Scotland in recent years. Vehicles containing dozens of very young animals – sometimes a hundred or more - have been stopped at ports in Scotland and Ireland. However, the import trade is not illegal and it would be difficult under European trade law for the UK Government to ban it.

The need for a law to control the trade in puppies and kittens was originally raised in the Scottish Parliament by Christine Grahame MSP (Member of the Scottish Parliament) who consulted on a proposed Member's Bill as long ago as November 2003. The new regulations require anyone dealing in puppies and kittens to ensure that the young animals are vaccinated and inspected by a vet, as well as keeping records of where they came from and to whom they were sold.

The unlicensed Irish farms which breed the puppies often hold hundreds of pedigree bitches producing a constant supply of puppies. From a very young age, a bitch will produce two litters a year - around 16 puppies, which would retail in the UK at a minimum of £300 each. When a bitch becomes too ill to hold or feed a litter, she will be destroyed.

People in Scotland are often unaware that the puppy they are buying is likely to have come from a puppy farm. They can end up with an animal with physical defects, severe parasite infections, hereditary diseases and/or behaviour problems. In the worse cases, puppies have died within days from serious illnesses such as parvovirus, distemper or gastroenteritis.

The draft regulations can be viewed at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2008/draft/sdsi_9780110816739_en_1

THE BULLFIGHT – EUROPEAN ACTION

Culture is no excuse for cruelty

International associations ask MEPs for « **A Bullfight-Free Europe** ».

During the first week of June 08, a coalition of anti-bullfight groups presented their arguments to MEPs in Brussels, revealing that the bullfight is in decline with serious financial problems, only surviving because of European subsidies.

At the same time, the pro-bullfight lobby attempted to prove to the European parliament that the corrida is a flourishing business and an inherent part of Spanish cultural tradition.

European subsidies to bull breeders are estimated at 220 euros per animal, and to these are added the subsidies applicable in each bullfighting country.

In 90% of France, the bullfight is prohibited and severely punished as “acts of cruelty or serious torture of animals” under Article 521-1 of the Penal Code. It only survives thanks to “an exception of tolerance” contrary to the very spirit of a single indivisible Republic.

This collective of national and international animal protection organisations joined with the European Green Group with the aim of achieving « A Bullfight-Free Europe ».

On the agenda:

~An information stand in the Parliament itself, from 2 to 6 June, where MEPs were invited to sign their support on a life-size model of a white bull.

~A full information pack for all MEPs, setting out all the counter-arguments to those presented by the bullfight lobby.

~A conference chaired by the MEPS Caroline Lucas, David Hammerstein and Carl Schlyter, with a panel of experts, including a vet, a Spanish parliamentarian and an ecologist.

~A reception with photo call for the participants and supporters followed by a cocktail on the Luxembourg Square outside the Parliament completed the day.

~The Second Anti-Bullfight World Summit also took place in Brussels on 4- 5 June 08.



– “Don’t touch my bull!”

Concurrently with the exhibition organised in the European Parliament by Spanish bullfight aficionados, 25 anti-corrida groups, from Portugal, Spain, Venezuela, Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia, Germany, Holland, Britain, Ireland, and Switzerland, at the initiative of the Dutch organisation CAS, met in Brussels on June 4 -5 08 for an international summit. In the 2 days, 90 MEPs signed up to denounce the bullfight. They promised to continue the struggle in all areas, especially the public subsidies given to bull breeders.

<http://www.bullfightingfreeeurope.org/> See also www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk

Note: *The Guardian* reported in April 08:

“Doping tests are to be introduced for the first time at Spain’s most prestigious bullfighting festival after allegations that bulls are given drugs to make the matador’s job easier. Breeders at next month’s *Feria de San Isidro* face fines of up to 60,000 euros (about £48,000) if they are proved to have given their bulls drugs. Blood and urine samples will be taken from bulls that vets think are behaving strangely. Bulls undergo other tests before they enter the ring, but this will be the first time they are subjected to specific anti-doping tests.”

According to **Arturo Pérez, of Actyma**, there are 438 bullrings in Spain and 12.000 bloody events each year. Two Spanish bull breeders have been fined 4.500 y 8.000 euros for having presented bulls at the ring in Huesca with shaved horns. To make the case, it had to be proved that it was the breeders themselves who had done this. It is no secret that breeders only do what the bullfighters ask of them. It was also confirmed by the President of the Bullring in Huesca that all the bulls on those two days had shaven horns.

Thanks to AnimaNaturalis for this information – www.animanaturalis.org

SOME POSITIVE NEWS FROM PORTUGAL

ANIMAL'S SUCCESSFUL LEGAL ACTION AGAINST BULLFIGHTS ON PORTUGUESE TV

The RTP, Portugal's state-owned TV station, which often broadcasts bullfights in prime time and as such is one of the pillars of the bullfighting industry in the country, was ordered by the court at the end of May 08 to refrain from broadcasting its *44th TV Bullfight* (originally programmed to be aired at 5 p.m. on June 8th) between 6 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. and a permanent sign must be displayed indicating that it is a violent TV programme susceptible of negatively influencing the personality development of children and teenagers.

To prevent RTP from violating the court order, RTP was obliged to pay a fine of 15.000,00 euros in case of any infraction, and the TV station's administration was informed that disobedience to this court order would be a crime punishable by up to 3 years of imprisonment.

This court decision is truly remarkable. The facts that the court has admitted as proven form a very powerful case against the screening of bullfights by TV stations and against the psychological and social dangers that such programmes bring with them.

After hearing the statements of the five witnesses – among which were two clinical psychologists and a biologist and university professor of ethology (the science which studies animal behaviour) –, the court considered as proven that the viewing of televised bullfights is, at least, susceptible of having a negative influence on children and teenagers and on the development of their personality, sending them a message that to torture an animal, make a spectacle of it and broadcast it on TV is acceptable and normal.

ANIMAL successfully alleged that the spectacle they are viewing involves inflicting suffering in a lawful setting, presented as artistic, in which the torture of animals is admired as aesthetically pleasant, morally irrelevant, and thus appears respectable, that the spectacle is even broadcasted on TV and at no restricted time, making it easily accessible to children and teenagers.

The court has also accepted that, while the Portuguese State, through the school books approved by the Ministry of Education, incorporates in educational messages aimed at children and teenagers the principle that animals and nature should be respected and protected and that animal cruelty should in no way be condoned, at the same time the State, contradictorily, not only authorizes bullfights but also promotes these bloody spectacles through the state television channel, broadcasting these brutal shows at any time or day. There is a real risk that children and teenagers will want to reproduce the violent behaviour glorified in bullfights shown to them on TV. The court also acknowledged this danger as proven.

Miguel Moutinho, President of **ANIMAL**, said: “**ANIMAL** will proceed with the main court case to try to get the court to apply this decision for all the bullfighting programmes that RTP may decide to air... At the same time, **ANIMAL** will continue its ongoing campaign to get the Portuguese Parliament to establish a new animal protection law in the country – in which a national ban on bullfighting should be incorporated”.

AND: THE RODEO – ANOTHER SUCCESS

The Judicial Court of Faro, in the Algarve on September 5 08 ruled rodeos as cruel and unlawful activities in Portugal, prohibiting a rodeo which was scheduled to take place in the context of an equestrian festival in the small and rural town of Estói, within the village of Faro. This rodeo was part of the newly-started National Championship of Rodeo, which is promoted by a rodeo company which has started to act in Portugal this year.

Responding positively to the injunction brought by **ANIMAL** against the rodeo in order to judicially stop it, the Court of Faro considered proven, and has admitted as validated facts, that rodeos are spectacles which involve the cruel infliction of severe pain and suffering to the bulls, calves and horses which are victims of these brutal events, and that these frequently become gravely injured when used in rodeos. The court admitted that the kind of acts perpetrated against animals in rodeos may eventually kill them, as a result of the extreme violence to which the animals are subjected. This court has also responded positively to the claims made by **ANIMAL** about the unlawful standing of rodeos in Portugal, under the existing Animal Protection Law, given that these are not in any way accepted or permitted by this or any other Portuguese law, while they include acts of cruelty which, by their consequences for the animals, this law prohibits. Based on this, the judge decided to prohibit the rodeo that was scheduled to take place in Estói.

... This rodeo was not only licensed by the municipality of Faro – it was supported by this municipality and by two other agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture, which makes the situation even more seriously outrageous, given that the Portuguese State was supporting an unlawful activity that a Portuguese Court has prohibited on the grounds of its violent nature and the way it collides with the existing Animal Protection Law.

The Court of Faro has also notified all the local and national authorities of this prohibition, requesting their intervention to ensure that the court decision will be enforced... The judge specifically informed the organisers of the rodeo that, in case they do not respect the court order, they will be condemned to pay a 15.000,00 euros fine and will also face criminal charges for disrespecting an explicit court order, as stated in the Portuguese Civil Procedure Code. www.animal.org.pt

RELIGIOUS INITIATIVES

FATWA on the subject of the Treatment of Animals.

A *Fatwa* - an interpretation of Islamic precepts – was declared in April 08 by the **Grand Imam Sheikh Mohamed Sayed Tantawy of Al Azhar in Cairo**, the foremost authority in Sunni Islam.

The following is a summary of the document issued.

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Ahmed El Sherbeeny, lawyer and chairman of the Board of Directors of the **Egyptian Society of Animal Friends** requested a statement of Islamic legal opinion in two matters:

The first concerns the abuse of the animal at the time of its slaughter, which may contravene the injunction to treat it with mercy.

The second matter asks for the opinion of Islamic law with regard to the transporting of animals over long distances from one country to another, in ways that do not observe the safety of the animal or treat it with compassion.

First: Islamic law requires that the animal be treated with compassion and mercy. "Allah Almighty has dictated goodwill in everything; if you kill you perfect the killing, if you slaughter you perfect the slaughter. In slaughtering one must sharpen the blade and comfort the animal before slaughtering it"

Imam Aly (peace be upon him) prohibited the slaughter of sheep before each other or any other animals, so that the feelings of the animal would not be hurt in its last moments.

Second: the Islamic requirement to be merciful also covers the transportation of the animal. Such transportation must be carried out by means that guarantee its safety, prohibits its abuse, threatening its life or afflicting it with diseases that are contagious to the human being or third party.

Abuse of the animal at the time of its transport is considered prohibited in the law of Islam, if the case is as mentioned in the question.

Allah is great.

Azhar Sheikh Imam, Dr. Mohamed Sayed Tantawy (signed) 24 April 2008

An Islamic Conference in October 08

The Egyptian Society of Animal Friends will be holding an Islamic Conference in October, to highlight the **Fatwa**, and, it is hoped, to jumpstart change in the Islamic world in relation to animals.

Ahmed Al Sherbiny says that plans for the Conference include hosting those directly in contact with the slaughterhouse industry, such as slaughterhouse workers, managers, vets, officials, and police.

Guests will include the Grand Sheikh (or his representative), the Ministry of Agriculture, and also, if the budget allows it, officials from Moslem countries who are involved in the long distance transport of live animals for slaughter.

A special guest will be Princess Alia Al Hussein of Jordan, a very active supporter and advocate for animals.

~ Many thanks to **Best Friends** (www.bestfriends.org) for this information.

FIFTH INTERFAITH CELEBRATION OF ANIMALS

Sponsored by the **World Congress of Faiths (WCF) & Quaker Concern for Animals** and held at Golders Green Unitarians on September 14 08

Service led by **Rev. Feargus O'Connor**, Hon. Sec. of WCF.

Guest Preacher: **Rev. Dr. Marcus Braybrooke**, DD.

Harp solos by Marilene Berryman.

The speaker for **Buddhism** stressed the three elements of life – right speech, right action and right livelihood and that living an ethical life meant abstaining from harming living things. *Ahimsa* is the basis of all such behaviour, as life is sacred. Buddhists recognise their relationship with all living beings.

Hindus seek divine knowledge and final emancipation and act with benevolence towards all beings. All creatures are a manifestation of God and there is no contempt for any being. Wise people see signs of God in the Brahmin, insects, dogs, elephants and in outcasts.

The **Jain** founder, Mahaveer, was the son of an Indian rajah. On the way to his wedding, he saw many pitiful animals in cages, and was told they were to provide the wedding feast. Struck by pity, he immediately renounced the world and its trappings, gave away his wealth and embraced the precept of *ahimsa*. There is absolutely no good cause for harming or killing any living being and the Golden Rule – do only unto others as you would want them to do to you – is respected.

The **Sikh** speakers sang a hymn. In Sikhism, there are hundreds of references to respect for the lives of all beings and God has created sustenance for us all.

The **Christian** speaker told us of the lives of Celtic saints and their close relationships with other animals – St. Patrick and the deer and fawn he protected, St. Brendan and the crow, St. Kevern, sharing his cell with a blackbird, St. Aidan who tamed wolves.

The **Jewish** representative, saying that the injunction not to muzzle a working ox was not the most appropriate advice for most of us these days, told us about the rabbi Hadassah Davies, who, whilst acknowledging that, in Judaism, theologically speaking, animals do not have souls, wonders why we are so arrogant as to presume we know this. It is also irrelevant. When their beloved cat died suddenly one Friday, they could not welcome Shabbat in the usual joyful way until they had said Kaddish (prayers for the dead) and lit candles for this cat. Hadassah has since written a Pet Bereavement Liturgy.

God made a covenant not only with his people, but also with every living thing, the birds, the cattle... Psalm 145 speaks of the Eternal being full of compassion, that the Lord is good to all and his tender mercies are over all his works...

The **Spiritualist** speaker read the beautiful poem *God of the Granite and the Rose*. It begins:

God of the granite and the rose,
Soul of the sparrow and the bee,
The mighty tide of being flows
Through countless channels, Lord, from Thee.

By Elizabeth Doten, it was improvised in the Spiritualist manner.

The **Unitarian** representative, quoting from Jon Wynne-Tyson's *Extended Circle*, made the valid point that the animals were all created long before man – how then are they intended for our benefit?

The **Muslim** speaker outlined the Islamic perspective on how animals are communities like man, that they glorify God in ways we do not know, but Allah knows what they do. He mentioned their language and how Solomon (Suleiman) could speak to animals – conversations with bees, birds and ants are mentioned in the Qu’ran.

Quaker Concern for Animals contributed John Woolman’s statement, which ends with “To say we love God and at the same time exercise cruelty to the least creature, is a contradiction in itself.” And the following lovely verse:

And other eyes than ours
Were made to look on flowers,
Eyes of small birds and insects small:
The deep sun-blushing rose
Round which the prickles close
Opens her bosom to them all.
The tiniest living thing
That soars on feathered wing,
Or crawls among the long grass out of sight
Has just a good a right
To its appointed portion of delight
As any King.

~ Christina Rossetti

Rev. Dr. Marcus Braybrooke, an Anglican priest who is President of the World Congress of Faiths, in his sermon insisted that the dangers of global warming and environmental damage require nothing less than a spiritual revolution.

There is very little difference between the DNA of men or mice. We are part, not masters, of the world.

Rejecting the views of those who say that the theory of evolution disproves religion, he suggested that it should make us more aware of our oneness with all life. We should, therefore, respect and care for Nature and all living beings. We trace our existence back to the beginnings of the earth, because innumerable living beings helped to make our lives possible.

Human beings uniquely have the gift of self-consciousness and choice. By allowing ourselves to be transformed by Love, we share in creating what the environmentalist Jane Goodall calls the ultimate destiny of our species – a state of compassion and love.

After the service, we were once again offered Indian snacks, courtesy of Mohammed Safa and his restaurant in Islington, and cakes made a member of the congregation.

~ Marian.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS

Solomon and the Queen of the Ants.

*During the course of an **Animal Aid** talk at King David Primary School in Liverpool in July, a little boy said that King Solomon could talk to the animals. I looked this up in the Jewish Encyclopaedia and found the following:*

With reference to Solomon's dominion over all the creatures of the world, including spirits, several stories are current, the best known of which is that of Solomon and the ant (Jellinek, *l.c.* v. 22 *et seq.*). It is narrated as follows: "When God appointed Solomon king over every created thing, He gave him a large carpet sixty miles long and sixty miles wide, made of green silk interwoven with pure gold, and ornamented with figured decorations. Surrounded by his four princes, Asaph b. Berechiah, prince of men, Ramirat, prince of the demons, a lion, prince of beasts, and an eagle, prince of birds, when Solomon sat upon the carpet he was caught up by the wind, and sailed through the air so quickly that he breakfasted at Damascus and supped in Media. ..

... while sailing over a valley where there were many swarms of ants, Solomon heard one ant say to the others, 'Enter your houses; otherwise Solomon's legions will destroy you.' The king asked why she spoke thus, and she answered that she was afraid if the ants looked at Solomon's legions they might be turned from their duty of praising God, which would be disastrous to them. She added that, being the queen of the ants, she had in that capacity given them the order to retire. Solomon desired to ask her a question; but she told him that it was not becoming for the interrogator to be above and the interrogated below. Solomon thereupon brought her up out of the valley; but she then said it was not fitting that he should sit on a throne, while she remained on the ground. Solomon now placed her upon his hand, and asked her whether there was any one in the world greater than he. The ant replied that she was much greater; otherwise God would not have sent him there to place her upon his hand. The king, greatly angered, threw her down, saying, 'Dost thou know who I am? I am Solomon, the son of David!' She answered: 'I know that thou art created of a corrupted drop [comp. Ab. iii. 1]; therefore thou oughtest not to be proud.' Solomon was filled with shame, and fell on his face."

I was certainly led by a little child to this story.

~ Marian Hussenbux.

THE SIKH PERSPECTIVE

The following reflections are by **Guru Granth Sahib**:

"Look upon all existence as one and undifferentiated; the same light penetrates all existence."

"The Creator created himself ... And created all creation in which He is manifest. You Yourself the bumble-bee, flower, fruit and the tree. You Yourself the water, desert, ocean and the pond. You Yourself are the big fish, tortoise and the Cause of causes. Your form cannot be known."

"Men, trees, pilgrimage places, banks of sacred streams, clouds, fields. Islands, spheres,

universes, continents, solar systems. The sources of creation, egg-born, womb-born, earth-born, sweat-born, oceans, mountains and sentient beings. He, the Lord, knows their condition, O Nanak. Nanak, having created beings, the lord takes care of them all. The Creator who created the world, He takes thought of it as well”.

“God is everywhere;
in all things and in nothing.
God is in trees and seas; in birds and in beasts;
in the soil under my feet and in my soul.
Why am I wandering from temple to temple looking for God?
When I stop searching, I realise that God is in me and I am in God.”
~ Thanks to our friend **Jagdeesh Singh**.

animalspirit2002@yahoo.co.uk www.sarbat-da-bhalla.blogspot.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

It was the 10th. birthday and opening of the new premises for *Paws for Kids/Safe Haven* in Bolton on June 19 08. The guest of honour was Wendy Turner - Webster, a supporter of this excellent group over several years. The Mayor of Bolton cut the cake, accompanied by two councillors and IFAW people also attended.

We had a tour of the premises – they now have a holding space to keep animals whilst the fosterers come to collect them – and the group is well provided with food by local supermarkets making collection bins available and by firms donating directly.

This pleasant event included a very varied vegetarian buffet, above which a sign said “Animals are our friends, so we try not to eat them”.

Paws for Kids, which covers the north west of England, is the only refuge in the country helping the whole family - companion animals included - to escape domestic violence and abuse. Their contact details are:

Tel: 01204 394 842 safehaven@pawsforkids.org.uk. www.pawsforkids.org.uk

THE BADGER

The badger is not an endangered species, but **The Badger Trust** is here to ensure he does not become one. Whenever they leave their underground setts, they face a hostile world - persecuted by shooting, snaring, poisoning and baiting with dogs. Among other aspects of their work, The Badger Trust trains police officers to enforce the law when badgers are harmed.

New developments can rob badgers of their feeding grounds and destroy their setts and they are often killed on the road. The Trust works with planners and developers, rescues injured animals and campaigns for badger underpasses, fences and road signs to protect them.

“The most ancient Briton of English beasts” (Edward Thomas, *The Combe*), the badger now has an uncertain future.

Over more than 30 years, governments have killed badgers in the mistaken belief that this

will stop the incidence of Bovine TB in cattle. 80% of BTB is spread by cattle themselves, yet the demand for slaughter continues.

The Welsh Assembly recently gave the go-ahead for the slaughtering of badgers in parts of its area.

Please contact www.badgertrust.org.uk for more information.

MORE NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES

The Humane Society of the United States and Leading Colorado Agriculture Groups Work Together to Pass Legislation to Phase Out Veal Crates and Gestation Crates.

In June 08, the House gave final approval to landmark legislation to phase out the use of veal crates and gestation crates in **Colorado**. The measure SB 201 came at the recommendation of an unlikely coalition of Colorado-based animal agriculture organizations and **The Humane Society of the United States**.

Governor Ritter has promised to sign the legislation, and The Humane Society of the United States has agreed to withdraw officially an initiative petition on the same subject. SB 201 phases out veal crates within four years, and it phases out gestation crates within 10 years. It also jumpstarts a process, to be administered by the Agriculture Commissioner, to allow for ongoing deliberation about animal welfare issues in animal agriculture.

The near-unanimous passage of this legislation shows that reasonable representatives from humane organizations and the agricultural sector can indeed work together and forge innovative and more humane policy solutions,” says Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS...

Across Colorado, nearly 150,000 breeding pigs are confined in gestation crates. While there is no current veal industry in the state, Colorado’s sizable dairy industry could potentially attract veal operations, and the veal crate provision was a preemptive measure.

The proposed ballot initiative to be withdrawn by The HSUS would have also phased out the confinement of egg-laying hens in battery cages. The HSUS, Colorado agriculture groups, and Commissioner Stulp agreed to continue to have dialogue on that issue.

Facts:

- Florida, Arizona and Oregon have prohibited gestation crates. Arizona has prohibited veal crates. And nearly 800,000 Californians have signed petitions to place a measure on the November ballot to prohibit veal crates, gestation crates and battery cages.
- During their four-month pregnancies, nearly 150,000 female breeding pigs in Colorado are confined in barren gestation crates—individual metal enclosures only two feet wide. The crates are so small, the animals cannot even turn around.
- Smithfield Foods, the largest U.S. pig producer, is phasing out gestation crates, and the American Veal Association voted to urge the entire veal industry to phase out veal crates. Colorado-based chain Chipotle already refuses to buy any pork from producers that use gestation crates. Chains such as Safeway, Burger King, Carl’s Jr. and Hardees have also implemented policies to reduce their reliance on gestation crate pork.

The HSUS is also proceeding with a ballot initiative in **California** to phase out veal and pig gestation crates and battery cages. The group worked with its coalition partners in the state to submit 790,000 signatures to qualify that measure for the November ballot. Final certification for the ballot should come within the next month. California voters will then have the chance to vote on the ballot measure—**The Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act**—that would provide the most basic protection to nearly 20 million animals confined in industrial factory farms in California.

The new law would take effect in 2015, allowing producers ample time to transition to more humane and environmentally sustainable systems.

Another ballot – at Massachusetts racetracks, thousands of dogs are treated in a way that is cruel and inhumane, kept in cages barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around for 20 or more hours each day. They suffer serious injuries, breaking their legs, necks and backs. Also, in recent years, dogs have died from a mysterious illness and tested positive for cocaine. If enacted, this bill will eliminate greyhound racing in Massachusetts by 2010 and spare over 1,000 dogs a year from lifetimes of suffering, abuse, and neglect.

~ Thanks to the **Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)** for this news.

AUGUST UPDATE:

COURT RULES COMMON FACTORY FARM PRACTICES ARE INHUMANE

A landmark unanimous vote by the New Jersey Supreme Court will require more humane treatment of animals on factory farms. The case was originally brought to the Supreme Court by a coalition of organizations led by **Farm Sanctuary, including the Organic Consumers Association**. The decision, which is the first of its kind, could cause a domino-effect across the U.S. The court ruled that widespread factory farm practices, such as “tail-docking” or cutting off the tails of cattle, cannot be considered “humane” simply because they are considered “routine”. Many states have a similar exemption to their cruelty code for “common” practices. The court’s decision means these factory farm abuses will be reassessed, and if they are considered inhumane, they will be banned. “This decision will protect thousands of animals in New Jersey, and also calls into question some of the worst factory farm abuses practiced throughout the country,” said Jonathan Lovvorn, vice president of animal protection litigation for **The Humane Society of the United States**. http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_14067.cfm

ARGENTINA

Extracts from Argentina National Law # 14346 for the Protection of Animals

Argentina is, we understand, the only country in Latin America with comprehensive legislation to protect animals. This legislation was passed as long ago as 1891 and amended in 1954, under the presidency of Juan Perón, an advocate for the animals.

Article 1 – states that maltreatment or acts of cruelty against animals are subject to a penalty of from 15 days to a year of imprisonment.

Article 2 - **ACTS considered MALTREATMENT:**

Not to feed domestic or captive animals appropriately and sufficiently.

To put them to work by means of instruments that inflict unnecessary punishment or pain.

To force them to work excessive time without providing rest, according to the season.

To make them work when they are not in a suitable physical condition.

To stimulate them with drugs, without therapeutic aims.

To use animals to pull vehicles exceeding their capability.

Article 3 - **ACTS of CRUELTY** are:

Vivisection without aims that are scientifically demonstrable and in places or by people who are not properly authorized.

Mutilation, except for reasons of hygiene, for branding...

To operate on animals without anaesthesia and without having a veterinarian degree, with aims that are not therapeutic...

To experiment on animals of the upper hierarchy in the zoological scale... (*presumably, this means the higher apes*).

To abandon animals used in experimentation.

To cause the death of a pregnant animal when the condition is obvious in the animal, except in the case of legally established industries that work on foetuses.

To hurt and beat animals intentionally, to torture them, cause unnecessary suffering or to kill them.

To perform private or public animal fights, bullfights, or any kind of spectacle in which an animal is killed, maimed, hurt or harassed.

~ Thanks to **Coqui Montiel** of **Canadian Voice for Animals Argentina**.
www.canadianvoiceforanimals.org/argentinabranch

CHILE

AnimaNaturalis, which works to defend animals in nine Hispanic countries, in August met the mayor of Santiago, Raúl Alcalá, to present him with the *Defender of Animal Life* award, given annually to deserving public figures.

The mayor described himself as honoured to receive it and said that he shared the feelings of the animal rights organisations. He is confident that whoever follows him as mayor will maintain his ban on circuses which exploit animals.

Manuel López, director of *AnimaNaturalis* Chile, hopes that other cities will follow this example, as the numbers of people aware of the issue and not attending circuses with animals, is growing.



www.mayanfamilies.org

THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Once again, many initiatives are emerging in this part of the world. We have several regular contacts, reporting on the excellent and sustained work being carried out there. We begin with Visakha Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a wonderful sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh:

News from Visakha SPCA

Pradeep Nath writes:

“Unfortunately, many of the ancient festivals in India involve traditions which excuse acts of cruelty towards animals, even if illegal. Because some of these practices are hundreds or thousands of years old, villagers and local authorities do not always sympathize with our protests. As Eid (the Muslim festival that marks the end of Ramadan and the month of fasting) approached, a man saw two young men walking down the road with two bulls, bloodied from beatings and mistreatment. Apparently, after years of loyal service the bulls had been sold and were on the way to a local illegal slaughterhouse. This man reported these “transporters” to the police. The police, as is too often the case in these situations, looked the other way. While the people who get paid to deal with these problems (or sometimes paid to not deal with them) often have other priorities, we are known in the area for going above and beyond the call of duty for the welfare of animals. The heroic, concerned citizen called us and we took the bulls to our shelter and their new family of over 650 cattle. We have named them Ram (Hindu) and Rahim (Muslim), which translates to Peace and Integrity.”

Visakha is involved in an amazing number of projects, in and outside the Shelter. These include:

Olive Ridley sea turtle conservation, protection for migratory birds, cobra liberation, wildlife rescues involving monitor lizards, dolphins, boars, hares, jungle cats, mongooses, squirrels and snakes.

They have also worked with the authorities to run their animal birth control programme, to get offenders in an illegal slaughterhouse prosecuted, achieved the seizure of circus animals; they have worked with the navy to protect the sea turtles, and are a recognised Cow Sanctuary.

All this, as well as running an establishment which has received the highest sanitation grade given to an animal shelter in India, giving sanctuary to hundreds of needy animals of all species.

The shelter is run on extremely sustainable principles, using a biogas plant to convert cow dung in to electricity and gas for cooking. The cow dung and urine are also used to produce completely natural fertilizers and pesticides to grow the plants and trees within the shelter. They have excellent waste and water management systems for a shelter of their size. A 30,000 litre septic tank handles the waste from the hundreds of resident animals. Rain-harvesting pits and on-site wells provide the enormous amounts of water used everyday.

Visakha SPCA began in 1996 and has been supported over the years by *Maneka Gandhi*, *Animal People News*, *The Ahimsa Foundation* of Boston, USA. The Project Director/Founder/President is **Pradeep Kumar Nath** and patrons include *Philip and Trix Wollen*, of The Winsome Constance Kindness Trust in Australia.

Visakha SPCA is recognised by *Animal Welfare Board of India* and the *Union Ministry of Environment and Forests*. They are associate members of *WSPA/International* and the *RSPCA/UK*. Visakha SPCA is the “sister shelter” of the *Animal Rescue League of Boston*.

SRI LANKA

Animal SOS Sri Lanka does wonderful work in difficult circumstances. The news in August is this, by the president, **Kim Cooling**:

“We have employed Ewan Taylor, a former police officer in London and a great animal lover, to help manage our project in Sri Lanka. Ewan has recently located to Sri Lanka and has worked extremely hard since arriving there - his first remit being to locate a suitable plot of land. Now this has been achieved, Ewan is helping to co-ordinate the building works, registration and all the other tasks which are needed to help establish our crucial project in Sri Lanka. Ewan is an enthusiastic member of our dedicated team.

We are leasing a plot of land totalling almost 3 acres near Ahangama, a popular tourist beach area in the south of Sri Lanka, for our vital project. The land and area is ideal, as there are few facilities for pets and strays in that region - no blood testing or X-ray facilities, no co-ordinated sterilisation programmes to humanely reduce the numbers of cats and dogs born to a life of untold misery on the streets, no co-ordinated vaccination programmes to reduce the risk of rabies in humans and animals, no safe havens for strays that are injured or suffering from diseases on the roads and require a safe haven for recuperation and rehabilitation.

Although we have raised funds for the land and some building works, we still lack funds for the building of our veterinary clinic where we can conduct our crucial work and save the lives of many suffering animals.”

Kim Cooling, Animal SOS Sri Lanka.

483, Green Lanes, Palmers Green, London N13 4BS. <http://www.animalsos-sl.com/>

RALLY AGAINST KILLING OF STRAY DOGS IN KERALA

Citizens for Animals (CFA) held a protest rally in New Delhi on April 18 08, demanding immediate action against the killing of stray dogs in Kerala.

Ambika Shukla, trustee of People for Animals, said that such killing has never been the solution to canine management and only a sustained birth control programme will have any effect - as well as reducing the incidence of rabies.

Jaya Jaitely, a social activist, described the appalling methods of slaughter employed, making the point that under Indian legislation of 2001, the killing of stray dogs is illegal. Participants in the rally also demanded an animal court, an animal police force made up of volunteers and a National Animal Rights Commission.

Rukmini Shekhar of CFA said that over the past two years, the state of Kerala has been pursuing a cruel and illegal policy, with the full knowledge of the state, judiciary, local police, media and civic bodies. Public outcry last year stopped such killings in Karnataka.

Apart from the killing of street dogs for their skins and bones, Kerala is also guilty of cruelty to turtles, rabbits and elephants. In short, a complete disregard and disrespect for animal life.

Many laws prohibit dogs from being killed, relocated or removed and Wildlife Acts protect turtles and rabbits from being killed and used as products. Judgements and directions on these matters by high courts and the supreme court are very strict, yet completely disregarded.

What could help:

- Boycott Kerala Tourism and their products, which are their primary source of income.
- Allow an external agency to take over the Animal Birth Control program, as the local government has submitted false affidavits to courts that they are implementing the ABC. Since this has gone on for years, setting up a separate body like Animal Courts and an Animal Rights Commission is the only solution.
- The violators must be prosecuted severely to set a precedent.

In fact, there is evidence that other states are imitating Kerala; this is a nationwide problem which requires serious intervention.

Rishi Dev writes: The rally was a major success, as it brought together many missing links in our protest to fight cruelty to animals in India. We now have assurances and active participation from many leading politicians who have only recently come to know of this barbarism. They have not only joined us in their boycott movement to stop this animal slaughter, but have also promised their political support to fight this injustice.

There was also a demonstration at the **Indian High Commission in London**, attended by Elaine Toland, Director of Animal Protection Agency (APA), Alan Knight (International Animal Rescue) and Bill Bailey, comedian, from “Never Mind The Buzzcocks”, came with his two rescued dogs from Indonesia.

Alan Knight handed in a letter outlining the problems in Kerala and he, his assistant and the organiser Carol Brignull were asked into the High Commission where they informed Apurba De, Second Secretary, about the dreadful plight of animals in Kerala.

W.S.P.A has offered support in the campaign to boycott Kerala at a mass level and the matter is also being reported to the United Nations and W.H.O., which funds Anti - Rabies Vaccines in India.



Bill Bailey with his two rescued dogs from Indonesia



Protest against dog killing at the Indian High Commission. Jagdeesh Singh on the right.

ANTI-RABIES CAMP AT VASANT KUNJ

We reported in the previous newsletter on the vaccination camps for street dogs being run by Rishi Dev's group in New Delhi. Vasanthi Kumar, also an associate member of QCA, organized another:

“On June 29, 2008 an Anti-Rabies Camp was set up for stray dogs at Sector D1 and D2, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. It was organized by STRAW – Stray Relief and Animal Welfare, in association with Sonadi Charitable Trust, Nagafgarh, New Delhi. About 40 dogs were vaccinated against Rabies, out of which about 20 would be neutered / spayed and be brought back to their points of pick-up after about a week of hospitalization and care.

With these efforts, children in Sectors D1, D2, D3 and D4 Vasant Kunj could now play without fear of being bitten by dogs with Rabies. Vasant Kunj in the recent past has seen a multiplication of stray dog population and this camp would surely go a long way in keeping their numbers in control. Besides, these camps make people aware, responsible and fearless about the issue of rabies and dog bites.

STRAW and Sonadi have agreed to carry out more of such camps in the months to come to ensure that Vasant Kunj is a Rabies-Free Zone.”

Vasanthi Kumar - Managing Trustee www.strawindia.org

Golden Ganga

She chilled out, as they say, beside a dark and wizened-looking cobbler at the entrance to a shopping centre on Bangalore's Mahatma Gandhi Road: a young female canine with an even, creamy gold short-haired coat and liquid dark eyes. I called this charmer Ganga. She was partial to a certain kind of pricey biscuit, which she got from me almost every time I passed her by.

The cobbler, a taciturn individual with a face that only a mother could love, was fond of her in his quiet way. If Ganga was not by his side, I would sometimes leave a packet of biscuits with him to be given to her. Ganga was a favourite with many. People would sometimes stop by when they saw me feeding her and would even pet her—for she was universally friendly. As the young daughter of a friend put it, “I met her only once, but she radiated the utmost love and affection....” Indeed, our Ganga was an ideal spokesperson for the Animal Birth Control programme to control the population of community dogs on these streets, having duly been spayed and immunised by a local humane society.

Well, it happened to be nearing the Ides of March when Ganga went missing and the cobbler told me that she had been picked up by the municipal van. I called up people I knew and made what enquiries I could. The first place I visited was the veterinary hospital on Queen’s Road. One of the assistant directors kindly allowed me to have a look at the dogs which had been brought there by the municipal vans. I had a good look, but Ganga was not there - or was she?

There were several Labrador crossbreeds with a creamy golden coat and melting dark brown eyes which regarded me with utter friendliness, curiosity and even some measure of hope. There was a long-haired black dog who stood up on his hindlegs to greet me - a stranger - with a wagging tail and golden eyes lit by a late afternoon sun. There was even a delightful three-month-old crossbreed, black and tan, with innocently enquiring eyes...

The odd thing is that they all became ‘my’ Ganga. In each of them, I almost glimpsed our Ganga. It was as though, in her absence, Ganga had assumed the form of all of them. If you are taken to a prison or a death camp and asked to identify your particular child, you may sometimes see your child in each of those lost and forlorn pairs of eyes awaiting some menacing fate. Which one is your child, and which is not? You want to take all of them home, but you know that you cannot do so.

You know only that, by so appearing, your own child has grown somehow larger - larger than a narrow individuality. The boundaries grow blurred. Lines are crossed. Your child is the child of the community, the city, the nation and the cosmos.

Our Ganga of the golden body and heart was, and remains, an expression of life itself in the difficult and demanding mode of love - rather than of hate: of giving rather than grabbing; and of enriching rather than diminishing...

~ Thanks to **Vasumathi Krishnasami in Bangalore.**

Rescuing the strays of Afghanistan – *one dog at a time*

Around the town of Now Zad in Afghanistan, many stray dogs dodge military fire searching for food and they are often used locally for fighting. In 2006, British marines started breaking up fights and freeing the animals and the dogs soon realised where they could find food and kindness.

First, they rescued a dog they named Nowzad from a fight and freed a female, Jena, from a forced mating to produce more fighting animals. Then Tali crept under the gate, bringing her six puppies.

Sergeant Paul “Penny” Farthing contacted **The Mayhew Animal Home**, who put him in touch with a private animal shelter they support in Kabul. They have worked in the city for some time, funding and supporting a clinic at Kabul University Veterinary Faculty.

During 2007, some dogs were rescued, but there were casualties, due to disease and being stolen for the fights, but there is a happy ending for some now living in Britain.

Penny writes:

“After six months of freedom, daily walks and a relaxed home life, Nowzad and Tali are fully accustomed to their new ‘pet status’ lifestyle. Nowzad loves nothing more than curling up by our feet when and if Tali will ever leave him in peace.

She is a right little madam who loves to try and make Nowzad play all the time. They still both have a few issues with strangers, but we are working on it. Tali also managed to make a celebrity appearance at the Mayhew Open Day where she was definitely the star!

Helmand soon took on the role his mum Tali had vacated at the quarantine centre, eagerly looking out for birds and rabbits. His cheeky character has been brought out by the quarantine staff, whom we would like to thank again for their personal touch with all of the Now Zad dogs. And so that brings us to the end of the original Nowzad Dogs story as Helmand, who was the only surviving pup that we tried to rescue from Now Zad, has finally finished his stint in quarantine.

Nowzad Dogs in print

Nowzad and Tali’s story is going into print and the launch will be early 2009.

If the book sells well, we’ll be able to be even more pro-active in improving the welfare of animals in Afghanistan – and helping the people there, too.

We’re also planning to publish a book for children next year about Nowzad and Tali’s adventures. It’s being written by children’s author (and Nowzad Dogs supporter) Jane West, and has the working title *My Name is Dog*.

Next steps

We are determined to continue what we have started and I hope you will continue to work alongside with us.

We aim to achieve this through:

- Funding the Afghan Vets training programme run by the Mayhew Animal Home in London, as well as researching the possibility of funding a more local training programme to Afghanistan.
- Supporting the work of the Afghan animal rescue centre with vaccines, food and supplies.
- Awareness campaigns and education of animal welfare issues in Afghanistan.
- Continuing to support soldiers and civilians who find themselves in the situation that we did.
- Advice and training for animal welfare supporters.

Nowzad Dogs www.nowzaddogs.co.uk **PO Box 193, Exmouth EX8 3WU**
www.mayhewanimalhome.org

THAILAND

Khlong Dogs is a charitable organization founded by five dogs and six cats, all of whom were formerly living on the streets of Bangkok and who are now living with their friends **Paporn and Thomas H. Jäkel**. All of us are committed to help the street animals in Bangkok and we support them wherever we can to make their lives better.

We regularly tour our region of Bangkok looking for animals in need, providing them with fresh water and food suitable for their nutrition needs. We already have regular customers living in our neighborhood who depend on food and water every day. We also provide animal food donations to other people who care for street animals and cannot afford to pay for it.

We identify dogs and cats who are seriously ill, became victims of an accident or were injured during an attack. We arrange professional medical care for them, bringing a vet to the place where the animal lives or transport the animal to a shelter or animal hospital.

We adopt animals and care for them in our home and encourage others to do so too. We select animals to be admitted to a vet for spaying, since this is the only real measure to reduce the number of street animals in Bangkok.

Khlong Dogs is a purely voluntary, non-profit organization. No funding is received from any source other than by donations from individuals.

Please contact us for further information.

~ Paporn Jäkel. www.khlongdogs.com

Dany was a street dog afflicted by a terrible disease who touched the hearts of many and her rescue was a work of collaboration involving several groups in Thailand. She was indeed rescued from the street, but died very soon after and this is a report from the group **Samui Dog** on the island of **Koh Samui**, the only rabies-free area of Thailand:



At the temple

“We were able to find a temple in Bangkok which allowed us to have Dany’s burial done in a memorable way, in the Thai ritual. We spoke a prayer for Dany and all the other street dogs in Thailand.

Dany is now at the rainbow bridge and she will send us the power and energy to fight for the suffering of all animals.

At least Dany had a nice farewell, although she had a life without love on the streets of Bangkok. Please remember her.

My personal thanks go to everybody, to Dr. Pop Thaiaga, to the monks, to Brigitte from Samuidog and to Mrs. **Paporn from Khlongdogs**, who has been with Dany in her last hours and took care of her.”

ARE YOU THINKING OF GOING TO THAILAND ON HOLIDAY?

SEAL OF QUALITY for **animal-friendly hotels on Koh Samui**.

Animal friends have set up an initiative for the protection of the beach dogs on Koh Samui.

All the hotels will be contacted and can then decide if they want to be seen as an **animal-friendly hotel** (with seal of quality). It will then be easy for visitors to find a hotel where you won't expect to see dying dogs around the breakfast table. The hotels are merely supposed to state that they will leave the dogs on their part of the beach alone – that they won't chase them away, poison or mistreat them.

Please contact: ~ **Ulrike & Stefanie. Samui Dog, Bangkok. www.samuidog.org**

AUSTRALIA

Little Lucy threatens pig farmers' bacon

Tomorrow (August 4) in Canberra, senior executives of Australian Pork Ltd are meeting to draft a media battle plan — in response to a sad-sounding little girl they had hoped would go away, but now threatens the pig industry.

What's got pig farmers squealing is a radio ad campaign by **Animals Australia**. It features a young child voicing the purportedly miserable life of a pregnant sow kept in confined quarters.

In one ad, with the sound of babies crying in the background, the girl says: "Everybody's crying today. It's the same every day. It never stops ... I wish I could close my eyes and not wake up and then I wouldn't hear it any more."

QCA note: there are two other ads, one where Lucy complains about being in pain from having so many babies and suffering fly-infested sores and a third, where she can't turn to find out what is happening behind her and is biting the bars of her crate in a vain attempt to escape.

Disturbing enough, but what's got talkback radio listeners complaining is the campaign's punchline, voiced by a deep-voiced man: "It is commonly accepted that a pig has the intelligence of a three-year-old child."

In fact, outrage is such that donations from horrified listeners are keeping the campaign running. "We only had enough money to pay for a week's worth of air time in the capital cities," says Glenys Oogjes, Animals Australia's executive director. "But the overwhelming public support means we are now in our fourth week ... "

The campaign, "*Lucy speaks*", was designed by Sydney creative director Josh Moore three years ago, when he was working in New Zealand. Asked to tackle controversial pig-farming practices, such as the use of sow stalls, he came up with *Lucy Speaks*.

The Kiwi version of the campaign died because of a lack of money. But this time, as cash pours in, it is bringing home the bacon.

~ **With acknowledgments to John Elder, *The Sunday Age*.**

*The capacity for suffering which all creatures share is vividly illustrated in these touching ads. In QCA, we wholly subscribe to the precept of the interconnectedness of all beings, we admire the **Animals Australia** campaign and wish it continued success.*

Update from *The Age* on August 17– continued success!

Australian Pork says "less than 40%" of local pig farmers keep their sows in stalls for the entire 16-week pregnancy. By 2017, the practice will be outlawed.

"Pig farmers have had a tough time with the drought and rising feed and fuel costs, and

changing infrastructure is expensive. What’s really hurt our farmers ... is the idea they don’t care for their pigs. Of course they do,” says the Executive Officer of Australian Pork...
... when their executives met in Canberra on August 4 to draft a formal response to *Lucy Speaks*, they decided in the end not to bother. They’re still waiting for that little girl to hush up.



PRISCILLA PIGLET WITH A CANINE FRIEND. EDGAR'S MISSION, AUSTRALIA

Hippocrates:
“The soul is the same in all living creatures,
although the body of each is different.”

CORRESPONDENCE

Printed in *The Times of India*:

This is with reference to the Times View/ Counterview (Jul 31) on animal sacrifice being conducted by a political party. The members of Quaker Concern for Animals in Britain were disturbed to hear of instances of animal sacrifice in certain Indian regions and would like to compliment you for having set out the arguments favouring a ban on animal sacrifice as a

deplorably cruel and outmoded practice. We are informed that Article 51A, clause g of the Indian Constitution enjoins all citizens to show compassion and kindness towards all living creatures. It would appear that certain caste and tribal groups are claiming a type of derogation of this law. Is there, or is there not, a ban on animal sacrifice at temples?

We understand that Prodosh Mitra has made the point in his Counterview that killing animals in the name of religious sacrifice is no more cruel than killing them for food. We share his view in substance, but because both are, to some of us, unacceptable, does not mean that we cannot disagree with ritual sacrifice, particularly if it is illegal. We are especially disappointed that, in the land of *Ahimsa*, a precept we so much admire, such cruelty is apparently acceptable and still exists with impunity.

QUAKER CONCERN FOR ANIMALS, BRITAIN.

TESTIMONY TO THE LIFE OF:

Jim Izzard, who died on December 1st. 07, served for six years on the committee of Quaker Concern for Animals. During this time he was the Quaker representative on the Christian Consultative Council for Animal Welfare, its main objective being to bring together denominations with similar concerns. This involved many meetings in Ipswich and London, one outcome of which was the promotion of interdenominational worship focussing on animal welfare. Jim also took part in peaceful demonstrations against the live export of animals in Brightlingsea. On one occasion a huge pile of sand had been placed in the road to block the lorries and emotions were running high. The press chose to focus on the QCA banner planted in the sand and local coverage featured the Quaker silence which had so impressed the reporters.

~ Angela Howard.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Remembrance Sunday, November 9 at 10.30am, at The Animals' War Memorial Adjacent to Hyde Park London (near to 'Speakers Corner') -

A service of gratitude for all animals who forfeited their lives through no choice of their own. Wreaths and flowers will be laid. Prayers and due respects will be offered.

Officiant: Our friend the **Reverend Pastor James Thompson**, also known as the **Animals' Padre**.

This will be a remembrance service in the Anglican tradition. Animal lovers of all churches, and of none, are welcome.

Christmas Without Cruelty at Kensington Town Hall on Sunday November 30, organised by **Animal Aid**.

QUAKER CONCERN FOR ANIMALS AGM 2009

This takes place at Friends' House, Euston Road, London, on Saturday, May 30 09.
Full details to follow in the Spring Newsletter.