

5th May 2008

Hi

Lots to do and lots of info in this newsletter.

BIRD HUNT CHALLENGE AT SCHOOL

I received this notification from the NSPCA.

Complaints and concerns from the general public alerted the NSPCA to an article in SA 4 x 4, Volume 14, No 4: - a Naboomspruit high school advertising a bird hunt on the land of local farmers who have children at the school. The school itself is the "charity".

"Prizes will be given for the largest comb, the longest spur and the heaviest bag of birds. Accommodation will be in the school hostel. There's room for 25 teams of 4 guns each that will set out to bag francolin and guinea fowl."

"It promises to be a weekend of great shooting, terrific camaraderie and a great opportunity to raise money for a worthy cause."

Investigations by the NSPCA led to confirmation that an organised bird hunt would be run as a competition from 20 to 22 June.

In addition to ethical matters, including the active involvement of a school in an activity of wanton killing (and for the "benefit" of the school), the NSPCA believes that the entire concept is one of killing for fun and sport. The NSPCA believes there is also the issue of wounded birds. It would be a violation of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 to shoot a bird and leave it with injuries to die.

The NSPCA expresses disgust at the entire activity which it believes needs to be exposed in the public interest. This is unadulterated violence – killing made into a fun competition. It not only demonstrates reckless disregard for life but is a horrific example to set for all our citizens.

This event needs to be held up to the public eye, condemned for what it is and those involved – organisers and participants – ought to be thoroughly ashamed of themselves.

Levels of violence in our communities and in our schools remain in the spotlight. We ask what kind of message this activity sends out. Certainly not a message of compassion or regard for life.

~~~~ends~~~~

*NOTE: - Organiser Marie Harris can be reached on 014-743-1100 or 072 020 0411 or [marieh@amsa.co.za](mailto:marieh@amsa.co.za)*

Does this offend you?

Well, if it does, do you all possibly think you could make the time to either write a letter or contact the school to give them some indication of how disgusted you are that they see fit to glorify death and killing as a way to raise funds.

If it also possible, please do cc us in on your letter so that we have some indication of how **few** people most prob will take the time to do this.

Here are some that have already gone out (as per usual Toni and Heather were the first to respond).

*As an experienced educator, I am extremely disturbed to learn about your charity bird hunt. Encouraging young people to behave violently towards sentient, living beings, especially in a society where violence is so prevalent, is contradictory to any decent, civilized educational principle.*

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[lejane@bunnyhuggers.co.za](mailto:lejane@bunnyhuggers.co.za) | 021 559 7324

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*The alarming message you are sending to your students is that it is acceptable to treat other living beings as a means to their (the students) shallow, ends (killing for sport).*

*You are further saying, that these living beings have no inherent value and that when we engage in violence against others, it is all right to ignore the living beings value and it is all right to treat them as objects to be controlled, dominated and exploited by us.*

*Furthermore this attitude of using violence against others to meet our needs is what leads people to engage in crimes of violence against people of colour, women and any other fringe group or group that is different to us.*

*“First Strike” – an organization in the United States which raises public and professional awareness about the connection between animal cruelty and violence against humans, have discovered in many of their studies and observations that violence towards animals is often the first step in behaving violently towards human beings.*

*Surely you don't want to be responsible for your students growing up to be desensitised to the suffering of other living beings? Surely you do not want to be responsible for your students becoming violent and abusive not only to animals but to other people?*

*For the sake of your students' future well-being and the well-being of others please reconsider encouraging them to act violently.*

**Heather**

*I note in an article in SA 4 x 4, Volume 14, No 4 that a Naboomspruit High School is advertising a bird hunt on the land of local farmers who have children at the school, where the school itself is the “charity”.*

*That this is advertising the wilful killing of life, which ‘promises to be a weekend of great shooting, terrific camaraderie and a great opportunity to raise money for a worthy cause’ is disturbing in the extreme.*

*This is killing for sport and for fun, in a country that is already extremely violent on a day to day basis. Respect for human life begins with respect for those weaker than us, be they mentally or physically challenged, children or the animal kingdom.*

*What of the issue of wounded birds? Shooting a bird and then leaving it to die is a direct violation of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962.*

*There are many ways to raise funds. Killing and destruction is the least ethical and moral of them all.*

*We no longer have to hunt for food, regardless of one's food preferences. That one would encourage children to go out and have ‘fun’ in such a destructive manner is cause for great concern. To encourage adults for that matter, where children will be present is equally unacceptable.*

*Why not have a photo ‘shooting’ competition instead? If people can afford guns they can CERTAINLY afford a small camera. The prizes can be based not on the pixel number but the number of assorted animals spotted etc, and this would then include those with cell phone cameras also.*

*I look forward to your response in which this awful and shameful contest has been changed to one that reveres life in all forms.*

**Toni**

### **EDITOR'S COMMENT**

Oooooops, did I let slip earlier how I feel at the moment....

Yip, looks like I did. I know that strangely enough, I will now receive a barrage of letters and some from people I haven't heard from ever before as to “how dare I” and “we all do what we can” and “we're all doing the best that we can” and and and.....

First of all, I think that it is exceptionally unfair to request organizations to do what you are not prepared to.

Secondly, sitting back waiting for others to save the world on a shoestring while not doing anything oneself is really asking a lot.

Thirdly, stop asking us to organize protests and events if you never pitch.

Fourthly.....

All of this really happens.

I'm sorry, but so much work is done and goes into so much of what all of us do and yet, I often wonder for what.

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I know in my heart it is for the animals and yet, over the last couple of weeks, I've once again been wondering who is actually willing to be a part of all the efforts that all the organizations and others make.

And I know I am not perfect and am not saying so.

At the same time, though, I am aware of how much what I call "the usual suspects" take on themselves and I cannot even begin to say how grateful I am that they are out there, as I am sure the animals they fight for are as well.

They are at **every** event, **every** protest, take part in **every** email discussion, put **more than their money** where their mouths are, fight horrific odds to help animals from trauma and are our front line troops and once again, I salute them with all my heart and soul.

Friends, it is only when we have 100's of 1000's of you standing up for animals and not even for their rights, but at least for the basic treatment of our furry and feathered friends to always be treated decently, that the government will listen.

Not just 10 of us, but ALL OF US.

No-one is going to take Foie Gras off their shelves unless they know that there are not just four people complaining but 400.

If there is a protest, we are so grateful for those 25 people who pitch, but if there were 100, we would make so much more impact.

**So, if you really care, come back to me with more ideas of how you think you can help, what you are doing to help and please, just pitch or at least, say something!**

**The animals need you to stand up and be counted, not to just complain.**

**We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing. Action always generates inspiration. Inspiration seldom generates action. ~Frank Tibolt**

Focus on one thing, as I am very aware that to try and save the **whole** world is hard. Take one project and run with it, make it happen, make that difference.

We need people who will tackle the issue of "what to do with your pets when you wish to leave the country", we need people to tackle the foie gras issue with Toni outside of Cape Town to put pressure on those who still sell it, Seal Alert needs people to help raise funds, Ingrid is always looking for helpers to raise funds for Shannon in Zimbabwe as the situation there is dire.

If you are doing something, then write and tell us what you are doing, how you feel it is helping and how maybe others can do the same. Pointers as to what you do and how others can do the same would be fantastic.

Here are some ideas that some people have already made happen successfully.

#### **Drinks Evenings:**

Most large corporate companies have drinks evening on a Friday afternoon/evening.

A request can be made if one of these evenings (end of the month) can be utilized to just hand out some pamphlets, a quick explanation of how we are trying to educate people on caring and compassion for animals and should anybody wish to do so, they can contribute towards the cause.

#### **Parties for Animals:**

As part of Capetonians against Animal Abuse, we held a party on my birthday with entertainment etc, being provided by my friends instead of birthday presents. For those who cannot help with the entertainment, I requested that they donate funds towards our sterilization day.

#### **Animal Awareness Parties:**

Hold small "awareness parties" where one invites friends around for a braai or a dinner (veggie of course if possible), shows a brief movie about animal rights to heighten awareness (not to club over the head).

#### **Mall and Fleamarket Stands:**

Offer up one Saturday a month or every second month to arrange with your local Spar or Pick 'n Pay if they could please allow you to set up a small table with organisational leaflets and maybe a tin to raise awareness of the issues and to collect some funds to further our work.

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Any organisation you choose to help will be only to happy to give you leaflets, tins, DVD's etc. to ensure you do a good presentation for the cause.

However, on the same note, I would like to say to all those newbies who have recently come on board, who are committed and who have shown themselves to be so, thank you thank you thank you. It has been such a pleasure to see all the new faces.

As well as special kudos to those who are not part of the movement and still care enough to pitch up and try and listen and learn. You are very special people.....

**Action is the antidote to despair. ~Joan Baez**

### **NO FOIE GRAS CAMPAIGN**

Toni Brockhoven was presented with a signed copy of Dr Jonathon Balcombe's groundbreaking book *'Pleasureable Kingdom; Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good'* at a recent book launch hosted by Compassion in World Farming at the Centre for the Book.

The award was an acknowledgement of the work done by No Foie Gras SA to highlight the horrors of Foie Gras and the successes enjoyed by the campaign thus far. This includes recent comment from the Checkers Group. "Checkers takes the matter of humane animal treatment and animal welfare extremely seriously. We find the mistreatment and mismanagement of livestock and poultry in commercial production units as being morally and ethically reprehensible.

Since the conditions under which Foie Gras is produced came to our attention, we took the decision to not stock any such products in our business."

Dr Balcombe, in South Africa to promote his book, is a leading animal behaviourist and Senior Research Scientist for the Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine based in Washington DC. He fully supports the No Foie Gras SA campaign. His research has important ethical ramifications for both science and society.

Congrats Toni – great stuff.

And while we are at it, can you please all go to [www.sentience.co.za](http://www.sentience.co.za) and make the effort to look at the restaurants that refuse to change to a more compassionate way of feeding us.

Let's do our utmost to stay away from them, try also to send them our opinions and rather frequent those places that do not serve foie gras or veal or any other unnecessary luxury item that perpetuates cruelty.

Thanks!

### **FEEDBACK ON WORLD DAY FOR LABORATORY ANIMALS**

This day was marked by various events, both on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April.

The day started off with a protest outside Wits University – absolutely amazing, you all !



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Then of course, later on in the day, Anne from BWC and the JAFFAE ladies had hired a bus with some sponsorship from Fruits and Roots in Emmerentia and drove through town waving banners and pamphlets.

*We had good turnout yesterday, about 20 in the morning and much more in the afternoon, plus the bus which attracted a lot of attention.*

*We drove for 2 hours in peak traffic, got stuck under a bridge at one point and had to back out, stopped outside the animal research facility at Wits. and all the time the girls were yelling and chanting non-stop!*  
**Anne**



**Now this is how it's done.....you guys are fantastic, amazing, brilliant, wonderful!**



Although it was a little disappointing to see the bus still painted in Springbok colours – wait, maybe not, we save Springboks too, don't we ☺!!!!!!!

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And then of course, the mural by Anastasya and her team. Beautiful work.....



Great stuff – guys and gals.....

**Cape Town** went with a music event at Rafikis on the 26<sup>th</sup> which was unbelievable.

Unfortunately do not have the pics as yet, but would like to take this opportunity to once again say a big thank you to Aidan and all from MyMusicMatrix.Com, Mike for LMG (Live Music Guide), Chasing Friday (love you guys), Zara (your music is too beautiful) and Heather Waters (you rock, chick).

A beeg beeg thank you to Casey and Simone from Varsity College for all of their hard work and for bringing in extra help. You girls were great! Unfortunately attendance from our activists was not as high as we would've liked, but once again, a thank you to those who are not activists, but who came and listened. It's so great to be rewarded by your attendance and interest.

**On that note**, there will be another musical event in the Gimme Shelter series in Cape Town with three

more fantastic bands/musicians giving Beauty without Cruelty their time for free on Saturday afternoon the 31<sup>st</sup> May at Roots in Obz. This time I hope to see 100's of Cape Town activists there.

Further details in the next newsletter

### **FEEDBACK FROM BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY**

#### ***SAVF Proposal for Changes to the Animal Protection Act***

Many people may be unaware of the fact that the Animal Protection Act (Act 71 of 1962) and the Performing Animal Protection Act (Act 24 of 1935) are to be amalgamated under a new, revised, Act in the near future.

The Department of Agriculture has, allegedly, tasked the South African Veterinary Foundation (SAVF) (not to be confused with the SA Veterinary Association or SA Veterinary Council) with drawing up proposals for the new Act, to the exclusion of all animal welfare/rights organisations!

The proposals, which can be viewed on the SAVF web site (see - animal use and care), contain a scurrilous attack on the animal rights movement and even more disturbingly, they propose changes that may replace "welfare" in the Act, with "care and use" of animals! The SAVF proposes a series of codes to govern the treatment of animals, instead of legislative amendment to the Act and it is proposed that the codes be published as "regulations" instead.

Any changes to the Act need to be based on input from all animal welfare and animal rights organisations and be subjected to scrutiny through public participation! In fact, the decision as to whether codes, or amendments to the Act, are the best options; must also be decided through transparent negotiation, which has not happened so far.

If the proposals set out by the SAVF are successful, animal welfare legislation, which is arguably quite ineffective in its present state, will be made even worse, with "care" and "use" being the operative standard upon which the new codes are based and not welfare, compassion and duty.

#### ***Beauty Without Cruelty Investigations***

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BWC is in the process of investigating many new, smaller, companies' humane status and we will, hopefully, have new names to add to our approved product guide in the near future.

It takes quite a while to get all the information we need from applicant companies and many lose interest when they see what is required of them!

Not only are we looking at new companies, but we are re-investigating all those that presently appear on our Product Guide and it may be that significant changes take place when the process has been completed.

Anyone wishing to put forward a company that claims to "not test on animals" for our attention should e-mail BWC [chairperson@bwcsa.co.za](mailto:chairperson@bwcsa.co.za) and we will do our best to determine if such claims are genuine or not.

### **WETNOSE VICTORY**

*Effectively ending eight years of personal and legal drama, Tracey Forté, the president-founder of Wet Nose Animal Rescue Centre, just outside of Pretoria won her appeal in the Pretoria High Court yesterday before two judges. Forté was sentenced to 18 months in prison or a R10 000 fine, suspended for 5 years in March 2007 for allegedly stealing a stray dog brought into the care of Wet Nose and then rehomed. However, Forté maintained her innocence in the matter claiming that the matter was a vindictive attempt by alleged dog syndicates to have Wet Nose Animal Rescue Centre closed.*

*In hearing the appeal, Judge Bertelsman made it clear that the state could firstly not prove theft as the appellant, Ms. Forté, was providing a very necessary service to the community by re-homing rescued animals. Further he stated that her behavior, seen from various affidavits did not constitute that of theft as she openly discussed the adoption with both her staff and the new adopting owners of the dog; and no money every changed hands for the dog. Finally the state could not prove the identity of the dog. According to statements there were no less than six similar dogs in the Wet Nose kennels at that time all in need of loving homes. 'Wet Nose has taken-in and re-homed and cared for thousands of dogs over the years – why on earth would I possibly want to steal the dog?' Ms. Forté has consistently claimed.*

*Judge Bertelsman was very irritated that the state had decided to prosecute this case in the first place as it was in his opinion a trivial matter in comparison*

*to more than 16 000 odd rape and serious violent crime offenses that were still backlogged within the judicial system. He said that this case was a "waste of this court's time and money to the state" and should never have been brought the courts as a criminal case.*

*Ms. Forté claims to have spent in excess of R25 000 in legal fees to date and that this case did irreparable damage to her reputation as well as that of Wet Nose. 'The stress of this case was one of the main reasons my marriage broke apart and I can't even begin to describe the pain and humiliation my children suffered.*

*But mostly what is beyond me is that the very people who vindictively slandered and spurred this on with their accusations and false statements were attempting to close down a safe haven for abused, neglected and unwanted animals.*

*As it is we don't have enough rescue centres in the country and to me, its about the making a difference and giving them [the animals] a second chance to life', Forté said in her highly emotional statement.*

*"I am horrified at the magisterial court system...(and) I am very concerned at how easy it is for the facts to be overlooked and innocent people prosecuted."*

*Having said this, Ms. Forté was ecstatic that finally the truth was taken into consideration by the high court justice system. She is adamant that she will be bringing a case against the state and the vexatious complainants for the damage done to both her and Wet Nose's reputation.*

*As far as Wet Nose Animal Rescue Centre is concerned, it is business as usual and the centre continues its mission to provide homes for destitute and unwanted animals.*

*'It is my life's mission to reach out to our animal community and allow them a second chance in life. Every animal deserves a second chance. I believe in the right to life, being treated with dignity and having one's essential needs met – for all sentient beings, especially animals.'*

*In her closing statement Ms. Forte said that: "I would like to thank all the strangers, friends, supporters, the Board of Directors of Wet Nose and my brilliant legal team who have supported Wet Nose during the past eight years, believing in me and the work I do; but*

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above all, those people who had the courage to stand up with me and fight for the truth. I have been inundated with messages of encouragement. And it has made all the difference.”

**Wetnose**

**Go Tracey !!!!!!!!!!!**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....AND ANSWERS**

**Just a question to ponder ----- would them thousands of animals still have died if I didn't eat them?**

*Everything dies, however you would not have deliberately contributed to their death if living a vegan lifestyle, and you will not have contributed to billions of animals living horrific, unnatural lives and dying painful lingering deaths (yes, the reality is that bacon comes from pigs thrown LIVE into boiling water to remove the skin more easily, cows are often butchered live and chickens, the most abused animals on the planet, are also most often butchered live).*

**Also -- Surely we will not deprive them from living out their natural instinct to reproduce . . . . .**

*Farm animals seldom get to pro-create naturally these days, they are inseminated as this is faster. And farm animals, especially factory farmed animals are already denied every natural instinct they have, so sadly this question as a potential argument falls flat. They are caged, mutilated (marked) fed unnatural foods to fatten them up and keep them disease free....*

**Then again -- Those animals that did not get eaten will have had a longer life span during which time they will have produced more babies that will not be eaten -- what will happen to all those animals, will this cycle of instinct driven reproduction not lead to eventually the world running out of veggie food for all the people and animals combined - will we [people and animals] then starve to death ?**

*We are breeding animals to eat at a far greater rate than normal. Supply and demand. Simple. When the demand drops...*

**What must I make of this possibility ? [Especially because every-one is saying higher veggie food production through genetically modified food should be stopped].**

*No one is suggesting you eat GM foods.*

*World wide the vast majority of human food is going to feed food animals for the few who can afford meat and 'we' are eating far more flesh per person than ever in history, so subsistence farmers are losing, we are using up the rain forests for McDonalds burgers, we using up obscene amounts of water, polluting the air and the earth with animal waste.....*

### **GRAHAMSTOWN FILM FESTIVAL**

We are so proud to announce that thanks to the efforts of Les Mitchell and ROAR (Rhodes Organisation for Animal Rights – I think), in conjunction with Beauty without Cruelty, there will be a showing of various animal rights films at the Grahamstown Arts Festival.

We will issue further details as they become available.

*Ok all, there is actually so much more that is happening, but I am waiting for pics and feedback to still arrive.*

*As it seems to be very late in coming, I will now close off and send this newsletter to you and hope to hear a barrage from all of you soonest.*

*Cos when you're talking and if more of you do, then someone has got to listen.*

**We cannot do everything at once, but we can do something at once. ~Calvin Coolidge**

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