

PSYETA NEWS

The Newsletter of Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals • Winter 2003 • Volume 23

Becoming a Friend to Animals in Mexico

By **Sudhir P. Amembal**,
President, Board of
Directors, PSYETA

Conde Nast, a popular travel magazine, in the past three years has ranked San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, as one of the top 10 cities in the world that its readers like to visit. San Miguel is heaven on earth, a 460-year-old town with tranquility, beauty, and an ideal climate, cobblestone streets, stunningly beautiful Spanish architecture, a human population of about 135,000—and about 45,000 dogs.

Animals Need Help

Among the thousands of North Americans attracted to San Miguel, my wife Kiran and I moved here in 2000, having lived in the United States for more than 30 years. It is the best decision we have ever made. But this heaven on earth is a living hell for animals. Having spent the last 25-plus years

“This heaven on earth is a living hell for animals . . . Electrocution will no longer be used to kill impounded street dogs.”

Although PSYETA, as a small operation, works for animals within a defined and delimited scope, we nonetheless are concerned about all exploited and abused animals. Therefore, we invite you and friends to submit brief articles, like this one, on the plight of animals and efforts on their behalf in any and all settings.

— Editor

in animal welfare and animal rights, I did not expect anything different. In Mexico, a country economically disadvantaged in comparison to the United States, where religion and culture have not placed any significance on animal care, welfare, and respect, unfortunately the animals have always come last.

About 15,000 of San Miguel's 45,000 dogs are *perros callejeros*, or street dogs. Each year, thousands are rounded up by animal control, and at least until three months ago, the impounded dogs were routinely electrocuted, often en masse. Relatively, these were the lucky ones. In neighboring cities, they are thrown off the cliff, shot, or captured and left in a facility to die of starvation.

San Miguel's inner city—a two- or three-kilometer radius—is kept neat and clean for the tourists; only occasionally does one encounter a street dog. But in the outlying areas, dogs run in packs. Hungry,

thirsty, diseased, and afraid, they roam the streets, fending against automobiles, humans, and the elements. Often, at garage dumps where there are simply too many of them and not enough food, the stronger ones feed on the infirm.

Amigos Begin To Help

Putting together an organization to help alleviate the pain, suffering, and misery of the street dogs was the most logical thing to do. Therefore, I founded and launched Amigos de Animales this February. Our initial objective is to help curb the overpopulation

Continued on page 6

Inside

<i>Editor's Comment: Money Madness and Animals</i>	2
<i>Evolving Attitudes Toward Rats</i>	3
<i>Tougher Cruelty Law in VA</i>	3
<i>“Robo Rat” Described, Decried</i>	3
<i>The Animals in Animal-Assisted Therapy</i>	4
<i>Animal Experimentation: Benefits to Humans Exaggerated</i>	5
<i>Good/Bad News from India</i>	5
<i>Making Strides</i>	6
<i>Spreading the Word: Note from a Member</i>	6
<i>Help PSYETA Help Animals from Your Workplace</i>	7
<i>PSYETA Publications Library</i>	7
<i>Progress Toward Sociologists' Animal Section</i>	8

MAKING STRIDES

Executive Director at Anti-Violence Conference

At a conference titled The Spectrum of Violence, on November 8th in Chicago, sponsored by the Anti-Cruelty Society and the Human-Animal Violence Connection Committee, **PSYETA** Executive Director Ken Shapiro showed **PSYETA's** *Beyond Violence: The Human-Animal Connection* video and introduced the *AniCare Child* manual to an audience of about 75 animal welfare animal control, law enforcement, domestic violence, child protection, and mental health professionals.

Also giving presentations at the conference were Barbara Boat, a professor in the childhood abuse program at the University of Cincinnati and contributor to *AniCare Child*, and Stephanie LaFarge, a psychologist who treats animal abusers and works for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Said Ken, "It is encouraging to see Chicago and other urban communities organizing and working together on the human-animal violence connection." He points out that, like some other cities, Chicago faces a resurgence of dog fighting. The Anti-Cruelty Society, one of the conference's sponsoring organizations, presented a video on that problem titled *One Final Fight: Exposing the Shame*.

Program Director on AniCare Child...

On August 18th, **PSYETA** Program Director Mary Lou Randour gave a presentation at the Link Up Coalition, of the greater Boston area. This was Mary Lou's second visit to the Coalition to discuss the **PSYETA/Doris Day Animal Foundation** *AniCare Child* manual for the treatment of animal abuse in young people. This time, she specifically addressed matters of cross-reporting and confidentiality—crucial concerns when therapists work with clients whose offenses are of possible future concern to the community.

... Pushing New APA Division...

From Boston, Mary Lou traveled to the American Psychological Association's annual meeting, in Chicago. There, she tabled for signatories to the petition for a new division of APA on human-animal studies. Valerie Chalcraft, **PSYETA's** new development assistant, joined Mary Lou in this important effort. Together, they obtained about 70 new signatures, bringing the total to date to 75 percent of the approximately 800 currently required to establish an APA division.

Said Mary Lou, "A division on human-animal studies will be of enormous benefit to the APA, since animals are inherent parts of the human psyche. Today, the APA lags behind some universities that have introduced courses in this field and the American Sociological Society, which recently voted to establish an animal-related division."

... on "The Link" and Youth Violence...

In September, Mary Lou met with Elliot Metcalf, a public defender in Sarasota, Florida, to discuss judges and prosecutors in the Sarasota area who might wish to receive presentations on the human-animal violence connection along with their staffs and their colleagues. Metcalf generously provided referrals.

On September 24th, Mary Lou and Executive Director Ken Shapiro gave a workshop in the use of the *AniCare Child* manual, sponsored by Harbor Behavioral Health Institute, in Land O'Lakes, Florida. Approximately 25 mental health professionals participated.

The Early Childhood Association of Florida held its annual meeting in Orlando September 27-28. As she had in each of the last three years, Mary Lou organized a panel on children and animals, which was well received. More than 50 early childcare providers listened to ways in which they could observe and influence children's treatment of animals.

Chronicling highlights of **PSYETA's groundbreaking educational work for animals since the last issue of *PSYETA News*.**

Mary Lou returned to Florida on October 15th to give a presentation on the human-animal violence connection to about 30 domestic violence investigators of the Tampa Police Department and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department. The next morning, Mary Lou spoke on "the link" to about 20 Tampa-area community leaders at the Templeton School.

After returning from Florida, Mary Lou traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, where she gave an *AniCare Child* workshop sponsored by Alliance for Animals and the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project. Held at the library of the Madison Friends Meeting, the workshop attracted about 30 area professionals in probation and child abuse and from the humane society, animal control, the community mental health agency, and the police department.

... In Court...

Mary Lou attended the two-day late-October trial of 21-year-old Rick Speight, who was charged with felony cruelty to animals for kicking, punching, and throwing his four-month-old pit bull terrier, Indy, causing her death. After two-and-a-half hours of deliberation, a jury found Speight guilty. Mary Lou consulted with Assistant District Attorney Alex Foster, the prosecutor in the case, whose vigorous and thorough prosecution led to this important conviction.

After the verdict was announced, Mary Lou was interviewed by Fox-TV News. The interview appeared on the 10 o'clock news. Speight, who remains in jail, will be sentenced on January 15th. Foster told Mary Lou that he will seek to have her accepted as an expert and ask her to testify in the trial's penalty phase.

... On the Air...

On November 9th, Mary Lou gave an hour-long interview on broadcaster Mitch Wilder's nationally syndicated program *Amazing Pet Discoveries*. Topics included

Continued on page 8

Practical Strategies for Animal Liberation

By *Jerry Simonelli*

This article is condensed from an 11-page paper available to our readers from the author (see note following the article).

The Problem

As a long-time supporter of the animal rights movement, I believe that the current lack of coordination among dedicated organizations and individuals results in unproductive duplication of efforts and costs, producing inefficiency. A further result is the impeding of two of our central tasks: having an effective and consistent message and implementing effective techniques to reach a wider audience.

Rights of Bodily Integrity and Bodily Liberty

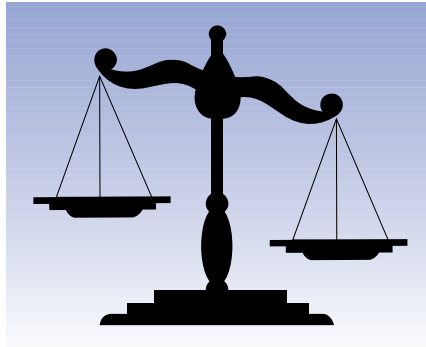
As an organized movement aiming to secure nonhuman animals' rights to bodily integrity and bodily liberty, we must build upon the progress that has been made in countries outside of the United States. In New Zealand, for instance, the Parliament legislated that great apes must not be used in research, testing or education unless such use is for their benefit. The European Community (EC) has made many animal welfare legislative advances that the U.S. so far has failed to equal.

Alliances

The animal rights movement is part of our wider struggle towards peace, non-violence and reverence for and harmony with creation. There is tremendous potential to coordinate mobilization on substantial overlapping issues with those working for peace, the environment, an end to world hunger, and many churches' activities that are consistent with our objectives. However, the animal rights movement is not yet coordinating efforts with those distinct but related movements to a significant degree.

Legislative and Electoral Strategies

The legislative and electoral arenas have significant potential to codify pro-animal initiatives in laws and regulations,



but more importantly to advance public discourse on critical issues. Animal advocates have made progress through the ballot-initiative process in recent years. We should constantly pursue such opportunities.

Education and Outreach

Communicating our movement's message to the public is our most important yet perhaps most difficult endeavor. If we do not develop effective ways to penetrate the consciousness of the wider society, the movement will remain relegated to the fringes. Ensuring that our message is received involves several key activities.

Videos by their nature are powerful tools for outreach. At every opportunity, we should show effective ones that have been produced by leading organizations, provide copies to public libraries, and otherwise make sure these important communication tools do not gather dust.

When we "convert" someone to a life-altering change such as eliminating animal products from the diet, we should **follow through** by providing encouragement and understanding of difficulties such a person may encounter. Otherwise, the real world of peer and family pressure can cause commitment and resolve to wane in the face of convenience and custom. Related to follow-through, **mentoring** can have a powerful ripple effect and guarantee a next generation of leaders.

An important part of our relationship to the public is how we are seen to respond to crimes against animals. Movement efforts regarding abusers have centered on strengthening laws and urging vigorous prosecution. Also needed is a **requirement of professional treatment**. A model for

treatment of animal abusers has been developed by Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the Doris Day Animal Foundation.

Widespread fear of change and of people who differ significantly from the familiar necessitate that we **combat negative perceptions** of our movement by reminding the public of respected, **professional "mainstream" people who participate in or support our movement**, like Harvard University constitutional lawyer Lawrence Tribe, former Mayor of Dayton and current Lieutenant Governor of Ohio Paul Leonard, and Matthew Scully, former senior speech-writer to President George W. Bush and former *National Review* literary editor, whose book *Dominion*, insisting on improved treatment of animals, was recently published.

Our movement must produce **mass-media advertisements** to counter food-industry efforts to lull the public into believing it treats animals humanely and that consuming its products is ethically acceptable.

Sanctuaries enable us to present an alternative to violence and indifference to suffering that animals constantly endure and as a respite to those of us who need sanctuary and periodic renewal in the face of our daunting struggle. We should support them and urge others to visit them.

Conclusion

Intellectual, philosophical, and strategy-related tension within the movement can be creative and positive, and it can be vitriolic and destructive. At the current stage of our movement, we must be inclusive of factions and alliances, focusing precious energies outward.

If we turn to history and study the strategies and techniques of the masterful political strategist Mohandas Gandhi, we will note that in the Satyagraha campaign for Indian independence, Gandhi avoided vague and elusive ultimate goals like "independence" and "freedom" and instead targeted limited, concrete objectives that could be won by specific campaigns. His

Continued on page 4

Using Language To Eliminate Youth Violence

By Jennifer Forrest

Last year I spent several months working with high-school-aged students in a boarding school for those with histories of violence and addiction. Keeping their feelings in check was the most important safety device for them. They had clearly been hurt too many times. After gaining their trust sufficiently, I took them on a field trip to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, a large animal rescue and education center in Kanab, Utah.

Animals Help Children Heal

As we toured the sanctuary, the students found it hard to believe that someone would go through so much trouble to save the lives of abandoned, abused, sick, debilitated and neglected animals. John, one of the students who would never even say hello to anyone, smiled when he gently picked up a cat whose back legs had been crushed on a farm. He said he liked how the cat got around with only her two front paws. This was the first time I had seen his warm smile; it replaced his characteristic cruel smile.

Somehow, being exposed to the innocence of animals and the kindness of animal rescuers enables even the hardest individuals to let down their guard. This is sometimes our only way to reach kids caught up in the cycle of violence. But if this lesson is to endure, we must continue to reinforce the fact that animals are not disposable objects.

The Language Is the Message

Experts in the animal and child welfare fields recommend replacing the word “owner” with “guardian” as a striking way to make kids think differently about their relationships with animals. A 1995 resolution proposed by In Defense of Animals and PSYETA and accepted by the Summit for Animals stated, in part, “We specifically propose an agreement no longer to refer to people who adopt or care for animals as ‘owners,’ but rather as guardians, caretakers, caregivers . . .”

One organization that no longer uses the term owner in its anti-violence curriculum is The Healing Species, of Orangeburg, South Carolina, which helps children who live in or around violence to break out of the cycle of violent thinking. Founder and director Cheri Brown Thompson brings her rescued dog with her when she meets with children in South Carolina schools and tells the story of neglect the dog endured in the past. Referring to the larger picture, she likens how dogs may feel to how children may feel in abusive situations.

“In criminal law classes, violent crimes are referred to as ‘depraved heart’ crimes,” says Thompson, who has a law degree. “Therefore, we teach children how to use their hearts to respect the feelings of those with no voice. The starting point for this is in the language we use by not designating animals as objects or as property but identifying ourselves as their guardians.”

Make “Guardian” Universal

Introducing the idea that a child has a responsibility to care for animals simply

because they are dependent individuals is probably more valuable than most people would guess. Use of the word “guardian” can help establish in children’s minds that animals, like them, are in fact individuals with their own needs and interests — individuals like them who are vulnerable and may be treated irresponsibly or abusively; individuals like them who deserve respect, compassion, protection and consideration.

John and the other children whom I introduced to animals at Best Friends may have been at an early point in their individual journeys toward love and compassion, but to the extent that our society can find its way, I believe the children will, too.

Jennifer Forrest is humane education coordinator of In Defense of Animals (IDA). IDA’s Guardian Campaign helps communities replace the word “owner” with the word “guardian” in city and state laws, in media print, in educational materials, and in other forms of communication. For more information: jennifer@idausa.org or www.idausa.org.

Practical Strategies for Animal Liberation

Continued from page 3

campaigns concentrated on the opponent’s weakest points and were chosen for their potential to generate the greatest possible support within both Indian society and British society (the enemy in that struggle). He further believed that the issue and objective must be definite, capable of being clearly understood, and within the power of the opponent to yield.

Gandhi’s was not a strategy of being moderate in one’s goals but of concentrating one’s strengths in ways that would make victory more likely. He kept his eye on the ultimate goal while pursuing one limited but useful objective at a time within a well-planned strategy toward the ultimate liberation.

Similarly, the animal rights movement must pursue definable, concrete objectives

aimed collectively over time at animal liberation, as opposed to insisting to others that immediate “animal liberation” or “animal rights” is our goal and expecting that to bring results without our first making progress in shifting societal consciousness. I believe that, by keeping these basic principles in mind and by working together, we can and will achieve our broad and ambitious objectives for the animals.

Jerry Simonelli is an attorney living and working in Northern Virginia. He has been a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives, a legislative assistant for the U.S. Congress, and a political campaign manager. He offers complete copies of his paper at (703) 818-2500 or jsimonelli@aol.com.

Voters Favor Humane Treatment of Animals!

Mass-news-media coverage of 2002 election results

throughout the United States downplayed voter choices in

animal-related state ballot initiatives, concentrating as usual on human-centered matters that, although important, are not likely to affect as much suffering as the votes for or against animals' wellbeing. In case the ballot items involving our nonhuman friends did not make your local headlines, here are the very encouraging highlights!

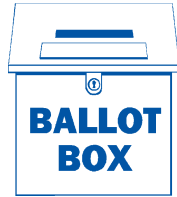
In **Arizona**, Proposition 201 would have increased dog-racing profits by allowing for more gambling at greyhound tracks, but voters rejected it 20% to 80%! Thousands of dogs in the industry who do not race well are killed each year, many of them very young.

Florida voters came through with the first law against intensive confinement of animals on factory farms! Amendment 10, which passed 55% to 45%, prohibits keeping pigs in tiny cages known as gestation crates, in which factory farms keep pregnant pigs for prolonged periods. Such confinement causes terrible suffering due to psychological and physical health problems.

By a margin of 71% to 29%, voters in **Georgia** approved Amendment 6 to establish an automobile license plate promoting spaying and neutering of companion animals. Money from sales of the new license plates will help cover costs of sterilization programs to prevent unwanted animal births and the premature killing of tens of thousands of dogs and cats.

In a historic victory pursued by **Oklahoma** animal advocates for years, that state banned cockfighting by passing State Question 687 56.2% to 43.8%. That victory for animals leaves cockfighting, one of the cruelest bloodsports, lawful only in Louisiana and a few New Mexico counties. The governor and two major-newspaper editorial boards supported the ban.

Also in **Oklahoma**, by 46% to 54%, voters rejected the anti-animal State Question 698, which would have amended



the state Constitution to require almost twice as many signatures to put an animal-protection measure on the ballot. The *Daily Oklahoman* lambasted this shocking attempt to single out animal protection for discriminatory treatment.

In the only state-election defeat for improved treatment of animals, **Arkansas** voters rejected, 38% to 62%, Initiated Act 1, which would have made certain egregious acts of cruelty to animals Class D felonies and would have made penalties for cockfighting equivalent to those for dog fighting. Opponents of this initiative misled voters by telling them it would have banned hunting, fishing, and animal experimentation.

Six **West Virginia** counties had

Sunday hunting proposals on their ballots, and all six counties defeated those measures! Hikers and others who enjoy the outdoors without bearing arms against animals only have Sundays during hunting season to engage in their forms of recreation without fear of being shot by those taking part in lawful hunting.

Thus, *results in five out of six state-wide ballot initiatives strongly favored animals, with results affecting smaller jurisdictions also going the humane way.*

Ballot-initiative information for this article comes from the Special Ballot Initiatives Results Issue, HUMANElines, November 6, 2002, an online publication of the Humane Society of the United States.

Felony Cruelty Possible in Ohio

The Ohio legislature is considering stricter penalties for cruelty to animals. HB 480 and SB 221 would make a second offense a fifth-degree felony in a state that currently has no felony cruelty provision. Penalties could include up to one year in jail and up to a \$2,500 fine.

The Senate bill, which already has passed and is pending in the house, applies only to dogs, cats and any companion animal kept inside a home. It excludes "livestock," free-roaming animals, and dogs used for hunting, as long as the dogs are treated within commonly accepted practices. It would ban any act of cruelty against a companion animal, including torturing, tormenting, beating or poisoning. A first offense would constitute a first-degree misdemeanor.

At present, the maximum amount of time behind bars for those convicted of cruelty to animals in Ohio is three months. Particularly considering that maximum sentences often are not imposed, that is of deep concern to many Ohio residents. In a recent Vermilion, Ohio, case, for instance, some people who care about the treatment of

animals would like a stiff sentence, if a guilty verdict is returned, for a defendant accused of severely neglecting three horses, a goat and a steer who reportedly were not rescued until police had received many calls about those animals' deplorable mistreatment.

According to the November 2nd Cincinnati Enquirer, a former Ohio state representative who supported efforts to toughen the anticruelty provisions believes lobbying by the Ohio Association of Animal Owners. Expressing a "moral problem" with bringing sentences for abusing animals close to those for mistreating human beings, a spokesperson for that Association exemplifies the fundamental problem of classifying animals as property and denying them the respect due to all sentient beings.

Such concerns also reflect the widespread ignorance that still exists of the well-documented connection between violence against nonhuman animals and against human beings.

If the legislation passes and is signed into law, only 13 states will still have no felony cruelty-to-animals provisions in their anticruelty statutes.

Dissection Increasingly on the Table and under the Knife



In early October, The Associated Press provided an article, which was published by *The New York Times* and other newspapers on October 6th, stating that the number of students choosing humane alternatives to classroom animal dissection has been increasing. Here are some highlights:

■ The Clark County (Nevada) School Board this year joined the many jurisdictions, including several entire states, in which students may choose not to dissect animals without facing disciplinary action or lowering of grades. Parental support is required. A petition drive by eighth-grader Laurie Wolff, an “A” student who had received a “C” in a science class after refusing to dissect an earthworm, led to adoption of the new policy.

■ A 16-year-old honor student in Baltimore, removed from an anatomy class in September for refusing to dissect a cat,

was readmitted with a computer-alternatives option after protests took place at her high school.

■ In Little Chute, Wisconsin, in 2001, students appealed to the school board for dissection policy changes.

■ Students desiring dissection policy changes spoke before a State Senate committee in Vermont in 2001.

The article quoted a National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) director as claiming that many who oppose dissection “act on emotion rather than intellect.” However, **PSYETA** Executive Director Ken Shapiro points out, “It is worth remembering that those who continue to promote classroom animal dissection act no less on emotion than others. A combination of emotion and intellect is the basis of most sound choices, and compassion for animals is an indicator

of emotional and intellectual wellbeing.”

To the NABT director’s claim, in the article, that dissection is “an issue of academic freedom,” Shapiro, who holds a degree in intellectual history in addition to his doctorate in psychology, counters, “Clearly, forcing some individuals (students) to harm or kill an animal against the dictates of their conscience violates their rights more than asking other individuals (teachers) to add a non-animal exercise to the curriculum.”

Currently, about six million cats, fetal pigs, frogs, and other animals are cut apart in classroom dissections each year in the U.S. Eight states have established policies permitting students to opt out of animal dissection: California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

Becoming a Friend to Animals in Mexico *Continued from page 1*

crisis of companion animals in San Miguel. To accomplish this, we are taking a three-pronged approach: a massive but affordable sterilization campaign; a meaningful educational program, particularly in the school system; and a cooperative working arrangement with animal control.

We have, to date, performed over 400 free sterilizations of dogs and cats from families who otherwise would not have been able to afford these procedures. To keep overhead low, we decided not to have a facility—at least for now. The program is offered through a joint venture agreement with several area veterinarians who spay or neuter dogs at a reduced price to the organization.

In the area of education, we have very recently introduced a program into the school system via a simple coloring book for children that focuses on animal care, welfare, and respect.

Toward building a cooperative working arrangement with animal control, we signed an agreement with the municipality which states that electrocution will no longer be

used to kill impounded street dogs. Beginning three months ago, they are now euthanized with sodium pentobarbital. We pay for the medication and the associated veterinary fees.

Expanding the Program

So far, so good. But we have barely scratched the surface. To make a significant difference—and just for the street dogs—we have to sterilize thousands over the next few years. In the United States, the model for “no more homeless dogs” is to sterilize 70% of the total dog population over a period of five years. With that in mind, we will “rent a tin shed,” hire a veterinarian, and go for the numbers.

We have recently gained the expertise of three advisors from the United States: Dr. Jeffrey D. Young of Planned Pethood Plus, Denver, Colorado, who has performed over 100,000 sterilizations, many in Central and Eastern Europe; Ed Boks, executive director of Maricopa County (Arizona) Animal Care and Control, a preeminent animal control

agency; and Gregory Castle, cofounder of Best Friends, in Kanab, Utah, a renowned animal sanctuary. Their skills are already helping, and their collective wisdom will add depth to our plans.

Next, Amigos de Animales will devise a plan to help San Miguel’s feral cats, and soon thereafter, the burros, many of whom also suffer in the area. It is more than a lifetime’s work—as in the United States—to ensure large numbers of animals’ wellbeing in perpetuity. The animals deserve our continuing and untiring efforts. To quote St. Francis of Assisi, “Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission: to be of service to them wherever they require it.”

*Sudbir P. Amemba, in addition to serving as president of the Board of **PSYETA**, has served as president of the Board of Directors of the Humane Society of Utah and of Wasatch Humane and as a member of the Board of Directors of The Animals’ Agenda magazine.*

Creating Coalitions of Compassion through Charter Schools

By **Yale Wishnick, Member**

Recently, I had a conversation with a Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) official questioning the organization's lack of interest in the animal rights movement and its reluctance to work to improve the overall condition of nonhuman animals. While the SPLC official was respectful, she viewed human rights concerns as separate and divisible from concerns about the wellbeing and treatment of nonhuman animals. Her opinions and those of SPLC are similar to those of most advocates for human causes—and to those of many animal protection advocates and organizations.

Coalitions of Compassion

Questions like these are often asked of animal advocates: Why do animal rights organizations consider animals more important than people? Why do animal rights activists work tirelessly for animals when people are starving and suffering? Worse, individuals who work on behalf of animals are often viewed as extremists—out of touch with “mainstream” thinking and conventional wisdom.

The early years of the animal rights movement, however, indicate animal advocates formerly were involved in a variety of human causes: the abolitionist movement, women's suffrage, efforts to improve the treatment of mental patients, child protection, and others. Organizing strategies of the past have shown that when animal rights activists reach out to other individuals and groups, there is a reciprocal response from caring, compassionate people. The question, then, is, What can we learn from the past to create strong coalitions of compassion for today?

Going Back to Our Roots

The majority of early animal protection organizations were organized with the joint

purpose of protecting animals and children. Today, many animal rights leaders and organizations hold to this perspective and are urging educators, elected officials, law-enforcement officers, mental health professionals, religious leaders, and others to view child abuse, domestic violence and cruelty to animals as interrelated.

An example of this effort is **PSYETA's** work with the Doris Day Animal Foundation in creating a video and discussion guide to stimulate a conversation about the human-animal relationship and the importance of working together to reduce violence in our homes, schools and communities. **PSYETA** and other animal protection organizations have worked with other concerned citizens and groups, not only to increase penalties for cruelty to animals, but also to ensure that those convicted undergo counseling.

Schools and Animal Rights

The connection between child abuse and animal abuse is only one part of the story. As any parent or teacher knows, a special bond exists between children and animals. A cursory review of early-childhood literature reveals stories of compassion, care and responsibility—most centering around the lives and experiences of animals. At an early age, we seem to be predisposed toward this special kinship with nonhuman animals, only to have it drummed out of us by the time we reach third or fourth grade.

To change this situation, California Teacher Association affiliates in the San Juan Unified School District and the Stockton Unified School District, both located in Northern California, have assembled community stakeholders, including animal rights activists, humane educators, parents, caregivers, teachers, teacher education professors, school administrators, child welfare advocates, psychologists, and law-enforcement representatives to create a

humane education charter school in their districts. Both charter public schools will have a K-8 structure, with the curriculum for all subjects areas based on humane education. The schools will share resources and experiences as they concentrate on creating a learning environment that affirms and enriches every child.

Opportunities for the Future

Currently, 36 states permit charter schools. Almost 2,400 charter schools serve more than 750,000 students in the United States, most of them organized by parents, educators, and community leaders to promote a specific learning method or set of ideals. The main advantage of charter schools is that they provide unusual flexibility in program development and design, allowing individuals and groups the opportunity to create new schools with new approaches within public school systems.

Charter schools offer humane educators and animal rights advocates the ability to affect public policy significantly at the grassroots level by developing a learning environment based on respect for the natural community and appreciation of the human-nonhuman animal connection. No other venue provides such an opportunity while also enabling animal advocates to work with people dedicated to a variety of human causes.

Therefore, charter schools emphasizing humane education will assist us in answering critics of today's animal rights movement who claim we are indifferent to human needs and concerns.

*Yale Wishnick, of Elk Grove, California, in addition to serving on **PSYETA's** Board of Directors, is an organization and development specialist for the California Teachers Association and is currently developing a project called Partnership for Reducing Violence.*



Making Strides *Continued from page 2*

cruelty prevention, the treatment of animals, effects of animals on children's development, and related matters. This show is heard on 25 radio stations throughout the United States! If you go to www.mitchwilder.com, you can find out if it is available in your area, and if not, ask stations in your area to feature it. The website recommends books on animal care, the human-animal relationship, and related matters.

... On Law-Enforcement Effectiveness ...

Next on Mary Lou's schedule was a November 13th presentation on the human-animal violence connection to 20 officers of the Montgomery County (Maryland) Police Department. As a result, officers of the Family Services Division and the Fire Department improved their communications with Montgomery County Animal Control. to share information about juveniles and adults who are investigated for or charged with animal cruelty.

Mary Lou explains that, technically speaking, Animal Control does not arrest a juvenile for cruelty to animals but issues a

summons. Consequently, the Family Services Division does not have a record of the alleged crime. Now, the appropriate Family Services officer will learn of the summons. Likewise, an arson investigation can include a cruelty-to-animals component, the most egregious being the burning of an animal. Juveniles who set fires and who abuse animals are the most likely to become repeat violent offenders. Recognizing the importance of such crimes, Fire Department arson investigators and Animal Control officers will now share case information.

... And Back to AniCare Child...

On November 15th, Mary Lou spoke at the biennial meeting of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence on the purpose and application of the *AniCare Child* manual. Deborah Matthews, a psychologist who provided invaluable clinical case materials for the manual, also took part in the presentation. Mary Lou appreciated being invited back to this event, having spoken about the human-animal violence connection at the 2000 meeting.

Progress toward Sociologists' Animal Section

Members of the American Sociological Association are working to form a new section called Animals and Society. Sociology animal section members would compare research, share ideas, and discuss roles of animals in society and in society's functioning or failing to function well. How meat-eating affects disease rates and how animal abuse can signal child or spouse abuse are among the topics that interest those working to establish the section. *Sound familiar?*

PSYETA Executive Director Ken Shapiro, who also edits the journal *Society & Animals*, notes obvious parallels to **PSYETA's** work toward establishing a Division on Human-Animal Relations in the American Psychological Association. (See



Inserts, **PSYETA** News, Spring 1998 & Summer 1998; "Proposed APA Division," Fall 1998.) "Such association sections would clearly be counterparts to each other that could benefit from each other's work and publications," Ken points out.

Anyone interested in working on the proposed APA Human-Animal Relations Division is urged to contact **PSYETA**.

Who We Are

Ken Shapiro, Executive Director
Mary Lou Randour, Program Director
Frances H. Albrecht, Associate Director
Eric P. Hauser, Development Coordinator
David Cantor, *PSYETA NEWS* Editor
Jeannette Bass, Web Master

Members of the Board

Sudhir P. Amembal, President
Lorin Lindner, Ph.D., Vice-president
Emmanuel Bernstein, Ph.D., Co-founder
Edith A. Bennett, Ph.D.
Aphrodite Clamar-Cohen, Ph.D.
Lynne Dow, Ph.D.
Deborah H. Fouts, M.S.
Yale Wishnik, Ph.D.

Board of Advisors

Roger S. Fouts, Ph.D.
Biruté Galdikas, Ph.D.
Jane Goodall, Ph.D.
Peter Singer, D.Phil.

Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (**PSYETA**) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1981 comprised of psychologists working in cooperation with other professionals and animal rights organizations to change the way we treat nonhuman animals. **PSYETA's** directors and advisors include psychologists, authors, businesspersons, and world-renowned experts on ethics and animal behavior.

PSYETA members are people of all lifestyles who share a common desire to improve treatment of nonhuman animals; about one in three is a psychologist, social worker, or educator. Your membership in **PSYETA** will help both to advance important programs for animals and to create new programs.

PSYETA

P. O. Box 1297
Washington Grove, MD 20880-1297
Phone/Fax: 301.963.4751
E-mail: kshapiro@psyeta.org
www.psyeta.org

PSYETA NEWS: Designed by Kathy Whyte, New Market, Maryland. Printed by Anso Printing, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

University of Wisconsin Students Told of Animal Suffering at the University

By David Cantor, Editor



The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) ran an advertisement in the October 3, 2002, issue of the University of Wisconsin's student newspaper, the *Badger Herald* that questioned the University's annual reports to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the use of animals in University laboratories.

The ad urged students, staff, and faculty at the University to contact administrators because the laboratories either "fail[ed] to file accurate reports or fail[ed] to recognize signs of pain and distress" in animals. The ad also asked those who contacted administrators to share replies with the HSUS Animal Research Issues Division.

Ad Not the First

HSUS earlier had run an ad in the *Badger Herald* describing the seriousness of failing to report pain and distress in animals. At the top was an image of three chimpanzees, with the words "Hear no pain, See no pain, Speak no pain." That ad emphasized that 10 months of letters and comments at public meetings had produced only a dismissive letter from the Chairperson of the University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) claiming UW was in compliance with the law. (See Kenneth Shapiro, "Institutional Oversight of Animal-Based Research: Tossing a Bad Coin," in the Fall 2001 issue of *PSYETA News* for an explanation of problems with the IACUC system.)

"We are appealing to YOU, students, staff and faculty of the UW, who, like The HSUS, are concerned about pain and distress in animal research at your institution and the lack of up-front discussion by the university on this issue," the first ad said.

Examples Provided

Both HSUS ads in the *Badger Herald* provided specific information and details of animal experiments to support the organization's claim that UW probably did not

report pain and distress accurately.

The University's 1996-1998 reports (the most recent years for which information is available, the ad pointed out) claimed that none of the nearly 400,000 animals the institution used in medical experiments experienced pain or distress. That is highly unlikely due to the nature of experimentation generally, but the ad observed that in one experiment rhesus monkeys exposed to the simian immunodeficiency virus endured chronic diarrhea, severe weight loss, and anorexia (the diarrhea killing the animals).

In another, experimenters kept monkeys restrained in chairs for 104 straight hours. "Does it sound like these animals didn't experience any pain or distress?" the second advertisement rhetorically asked? The first ad also pointed out that it is difficult for many human beings to endure four hours in a cushioned airplane seat, "let alone . . . 4 days."

The October 3 ad provided information from more recent sources than the annual reports research facilities using animals other than rats, mice, and birds are required to submit to the USDA:

In 2001, UW-Madison received approximately 280 government grants totaling \$77 million to carry out research on dogs, cats, monkeys, rabbits, hamsters, and many other animals. Available grant information and research publications suggest that at least 40 percent of the grant projects on mammals involved pain and distress, making UW-Madison's previous reporting on pain and distress questionable, at best.

The National Institutes of Health, the U.S. government agency that uses taxpayer dollars to fund animal experiments, often supports the same experiments or highly similar ones for many consecutive years. Therefore, it is entirely reasonable for HSUS to tell the University of Wisconsin-Madison's approximately 41,000 students that, if a large percentage of animals are likely to be

suffering at their school under grants for 2001, the same was probably true from 1996 to 1998. This compelling point also was made in the first ad:

There have been recent studies in which human volunteers have been injured or died because of inadequate research review at major educational institutions in the US. How confident can we be that animal subject research reviews (and, more importantly, the animal subjects) do not also suffer from inadequate resources and institutional attention?

Graduate Student's Letter

Kathleen Conlee, program officer for the HSUS Animal Research Issues Division, who is managing the organization's UW campaign, told *PSYETA News* that a graduate student from Illinois sent the Division a copy of a letter he had written to the UW administration. Here are a couple of his comments:

Whatever your feelings on whether or not animal research (including research that inflicts suffering) is merited, it goes without saying that much of the research involves discomfort for the animals involved. To categorically deny that *any* pain or suffering exists in your research program is absurd.

It should go without saying that such lack of proper reporting represents a serious breach of academic integrity. Falsifying reports and/or documents is one of the most serious charges one can make against a scientist or a scientific institution, as it makes it more difficult to trust that the research was conducted properly.

Vet Sues UWIn

On December 6, 2002, the *Wisconsin State Journal*, a Madison newspaper, reported that a former veterinarian for UW-Madison's Regional Primate Research Center (one of several laboratories established

decades ago by the National Institutes of Health specifically for primate experimentation and breeding) is suing UW, alleging she was fired because she raised concerns about the treatment of monkeys used in



experiments. Dr. Jennifer Hess's lawsuit, according to the newspaper's account, claims Hess, expressed concerns about neglect and cruel and improper treatment of monkeys in neuroscience experiments, about failures to follow protocol in a neuroscience experiment that resulted in the death of a monkey, about deficiencies in written records of animals, and about unauthorized editing of clinical notes, among other issues.

The article, "Ex-staffer at UW's Monkey Lab Files Suit," by Ed Trevevan, goes on to say that Dr. Hess's attorney stated Hess "was told that her reports were disturbing to researchers and that they were the reason she was fired."

In addition to seeking back pay and benefits, punitive damages, and compensation for future lost earning capacity, Dr. Hess also reportedly seeks a court finding that the defendants—the UW Board of Regents, the primate laboratory's director, associate director, and interim associate director, and the head of the laboratory's pathology unit—violated her First Amendment rights and an order that disciplinary action be taken against the individual defendants.

Serious Public Concern

"Members of the public (and scientists too) have always been particularly uneasy

about research that causes pain and distress to animals," states the first HSUS advertisement. That claim is supported by HSUS studies of public attitudes toward painful animal experiments. Conlee and Martin Stephens, HSUS's vice president for animal research issues, wrote "Public Disapproval and Animal Advocacy: Reducing Animal Suffering in Research," *PSYETA News* Winter/Spring 2002, describing results of those studies.

Nevertheless, as of early December 2002, students, staff, and faculty at UW so far had not shared with HSUS any replies they might have received from UW administrators to letters they might have sent to UW administrators out of concern for the animals. Of course, due to fears of reprisals such as those allegedly endured by Dr. Hess, members of the UW community may be the

least likely to speak out.

Thus, in addition to bringing enormous amounts of grant money from taxpayers to universities—some of it "overhead" funding that reaches beyond the laboratories and experimenters themselves—animal experimentation may stifle legitimate inquiry and discussion, the very activities universities ostensibly promote.

Next Steps

Asked what would come next in this HSUS campaign, Conlee told *PSYETA News* that, "if the University of Wisconsin does not commit to a dialogue with The HSUS on pain and distress issues, we will have to move forward in publicizing these issues more widely." Conlee can be contacted for additional information at kconlee@hsus.org.

More Cruelty Reporting in California

Social workers employed by county Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services in California are now encouraged to report cruelty-to-animals cases to local animal control agencies, under a law recently signed by Governor Gray Davis.

The new law is based on the links among child, elder, and animal abuse, according to California Assemblywoman Virginia Strom-Martin, who introduced the bill on which the law is based. Her original bill required reporting rather than merely encouraging it and mandated training to ensure proper reporting. A lack of funding to pay for training resulted in the change. Strom-Martin expressed hope that reporting eventually will be required.

Animal control officers in California are required to report child abuse but not spouse or elder abuse. Social workers at some county child and adult protective service agencies are required to report cruelty to animals.

Says *PSYETA* Executive Director Ken Shapiro, "It is crucial that such an important legislature as that of California, with more



than ten percent of the U.S. human population, is taking the human-animal violence connection seriously. As our society becomes increasingly oriented toward eliminating violence, cruelty to animals is sure to be spotlighted as it should be."

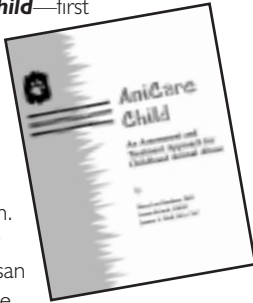
Note: For the leading videotape on the connection between violence against animals and against human beings, see Beyond Violence: The Human-Animal Connection in the PSYETA Book Shelf on page 11.

PSYETA BOOK SHELF

Handbooks

AniCare Child—first

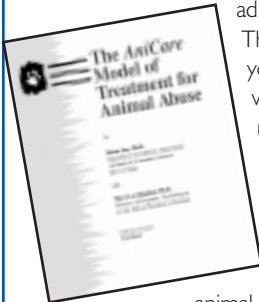
published treatment approach to focus exclusively on young people who abuse animals other than human. Co-authors Mary Lou Randour, Susan Krinsk, and Joanne



L. Wolf document clinical experience and present clinical case examples and exercises. Order the handbook, and inquire about scheduling an AniCare Child training workshop in your area. A joint project of PSYETA and the Doris Day Animal Foundation. Publication: 2002: **Print edition: \$30. CD: \$25.**

The AniCare Model of Treatment for Animal Abuse

—handbook for treating adult animal abusers. This one's for you if you're a practitioner working with the new counseling provisions in state anticruelty laws or want to help eliminate violence by treating animal abuse and potential



abuse without waiting for convictions. Inquire about scheduling an AniCare training workshop in your area. By Mary Lou Randour, PhD, and Brian Jory, PhD. A joint

project of PSYETA and the Doris Day Animal Foundation. Publication: 1999. **\$17.50.**

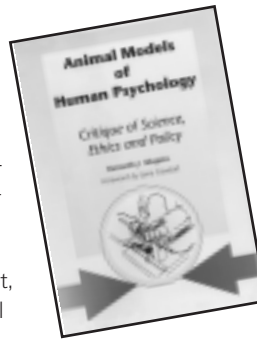
Journals

Society & Animals—cutting-edge information that animal rights organizers and writers keep front and center on their bookshelves. Social scientists and scholars discuss policy issues regarding animals other than human—animal companions...animals in the wild...in the laboratory...in entertainment...in agriculture. Kenneth J. Shapiro, Editor. **Quarterly: \$30.00, members; \$40.00, non-members.**

The Journal of Applied Animal Welfare (JAAWS)—the reliable source for articles explaining how to minimize animals' pain and distress in animal industries until animal exploitation ends. JAAWS takes on the controversial issues. See upcoming discussion of Cloning. Ken Shapiro, co-Editor. **Quarterly: \$22.50, members; \$45.00, non-members.**

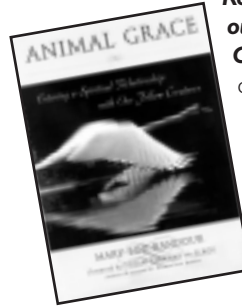
Books

Animal Models of Human Psychology—a must-read for psychologists and everyone else concerned with the important, urgent, and controversial issues of animal



experiments for advancing human health. PSYETA's Executive Director tells it like it is! By Kenneth J. Shapiro. Hogrefe & Huber, 1998. **Hardcover: \$20.00, members; \$29.50, non-members.**

Animal Grace: Entering a Spiritual Relationship with our Fellow

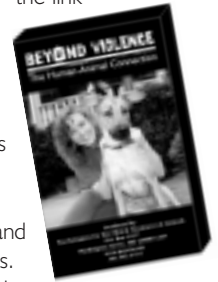


Creatures—an in-depth look at human relationships with nonhuman animals. This bestseller goes way beyond remembering to feed the cat. By

Mary Lou Randour. New World Library, 2000. **Paperback: \$11.00, members; \$14.00, non-members.**

Video

Beyond Violence: The Human-Animal Connection—the link between violence against animals other than human and humans. Years of research went into this 13-minute production used by law enforcement, mental health, and education professionals. Accompanying Discussion Guide. Available in both English and Spanish. **\$19.95, individuals; \$29.95, organizations.**



Order today using this convenient form!

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address (street, city, state, zip) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please send me _____ at \$ _____ each; Total \$ _____

Please send me _____ at \$ _____ each; Total \$ _____

Please send me _____ at \$ _____ each; Total \$ _____

Please charge my MasterCard Visa Discover Total enclosed or charged: \$ _____

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Thankful for Progress

Technological “progress” has enabled our species to become better able to control its environment through land-moving equipment, heating and cooling apparatuses, fuel and mineral extraction, transportation methods, and other “improvements.” But nonhuman animals have

gotten the short end of the stick—and sometimes the sharp or the blunt end—being killed in large numbers, driven from their homes, and more efficiently and economically exploited in laboratories and factory farms.

The weaving of some animals into the fabric of human life for about 10,000 years and

the persecuting of others are very tough nuts to crack. That is why we at **PSYETA** are so thankful for support from those who recognize the need for our society get cracking. The determination to end injustice to animals represents the most important progress of our time. Thank you, and please accept our sincerest wishes for a joyous holiday season and all good things in the New Year!

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address (street, city, state, zip) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Are you an APA member? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, division: _____

Other affiliations: _____

PSYETA Membership:

_____ \$500 Life Member _____ \$500 Corporation _____ \$250 Non-profit Organization

_____ \$30 Member _____ \$20 Student/Senior Member

Gift Donation for Friend: _____

Donation in Honor or Memory of Animal Friend: _____

Applying psychology and education to enrich the world through respect for human and nonhuman animals.

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 8
Washington, Grove, MD

P.O. Box 1297
Washington Grove, MD 20880-1297
email: kshapiro@psyeta.org
www.psyeta.org

Psychologists for the Ethical
Treatment of Animals

