

Vote Humanely...

A groundbreaking ballot initiative is now underway in Florida to outlaw the cruel confinement of pigs on industrialized factory farms. The effort seeks a ban on 'gestation crates' - barren metal enclosures where breeding pigs are kept, pregnant, for the vast majority of their lives. These crates are just two feet wide, and the pigs cannot even turn around. They are forced to live in the crates for years, enduring as many as 8 or 10 pregnancies. Thousands of pigs may be crowded on factory farms - creating misery for the pigs while putrefying the air, contaminating groundwater, and threatening human health.

Gestation crates are among the cruelest factory farming tools in use, and they cause pigs to suffer from crippling foot and joint disorders, muscle weakness, and lameness. The pigs have sores on their bodies from constantly rubbing against the bars of their enclosures. In addition, pigs confined in gestation crates experience chronic stress, frustration, depression, and

other psychological disorders. They routinely exhibit neurotic coping behaviors, such as repetitive bar biting, sham chewing, and head waving. Gestation crates are so cruel that they have been outlawed in other countries, but tragically, they remain common in the United States.

Concerned Floridians now have an unparalleled opportunity to outlaw this acute factory farm abuse and to keep corporate pig factories out of Florida by gathering signatures to place a measure to limit the confinement of pigs on the ballot for the 2002 election. Your help is urgently needed with this vital effort.

To get involved, please contact:
Floridians for Humane Farms
P.O. Box 8487
Coral Springs, FL 33075
Phone: (954) 917-7654
Email: info@BanCruelFarms.org

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Alex (rescued from a barn) and Bubba (rescued from a track), two dogs who made many people

Animal Matters
P.O. Box 880353
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

ANIMALS TODAY

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Being a Pit Bull ain't no Picnic

Pit bull, AmStaff, Pit, Terrier... what's this all about?

American Staffordshire Terrier (aka AmStaff)
Country of Origin: United States
A much-maligned and misunderstood breed.

Many people lump several breeds and mixes into the category "pit bull" - a generic name with a medi-spun reputation for aggression and violence. Indeed, the term comes from the pit in which such muscular dogs fight for sport - a result of training, not genetics. The AmStaff was developed from a cross between the Bulldog and

In fact, many AKC-registered American Staffordshire Terriers also are registered with the United Kennel Club as American Pit Bull Terriers.

The first recognized American Staffordshire Terrier was an American Pit Bull Terrier. The real differences are in the individual lines, not in the breeds themselves.

The American Staffordshire Terrier makes an ideal family member when well-trained and socialized. Most of the time, they prefer human affection to a treat. They just play, play, play.

Seventy five percent of all racehorses die in slaughterhouses! Ten million racehorses have died in slaughterhouses in the last ten years! How does this happen?

an English Terrier. The American Staffordshire Terrier has been bred independently of the American Pit Bull Terrier for about 60 years, but both breeds descended from British Bulldog-Terrier crosses, AmStaffs and American Pit Bull Terriers aren't really different; they all came from the same Bulldog-Terrier cross with nothing new added. Some were given one name in 1898, and others, a different name in 1936.

Ranked No. 65 out of 148 breeds registered by the AKC, the American Staffordshire Terrier excels at obedience, search and rescue, therapy work, and detecting narcotics.

Aside from personality, a winning AmStaff is typically distinguished by an appearance of compact power.

AmStaffs require a firm, consistent, dominant owner; they are not always suited for first-time dog owners. Simply walking an AmStaff down the street can mean public ridicule. You have to be

(continued on page 4 ...)

Leading animal welfare group praises Animal Matters

The following was printed in The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's News Alert on 10-23-00:

"WEBSITE OF THE WEEK"

Activism goes grassroots at the Boca Raton, FL-based Animal Matters, established in 1998 with a mission of "animal liberation through education." In addition to hands-on foster and rescue work, the group has built a cyberhome at <http://www.animalmattersonline.org>. Frequented by ASPCA's Wendy Giarro, Major Gifts and Planned Giving assistant, the site features information on major issues like hunting, dog racing, pet overpopulation, vivisection and vegetarianism. Their calendar lists animal-related days to remember, including Fur Free Friday."

Thanks ASPCA!

Monitoring the News

More and more news sources are covering animal issues

Another reason to say no to Chicken!

Maryland environmental regulators will require large poultry companies to take responsibility for environmentally sound disposal of chicken manure generated by the small contract farmers who raise the birds. Chicken manure was found to be the chief source of pollution in the

nearly three weeks, the bear died of dehydration. Zoo officials said mistakes were made by the workers who believed the bear was pregnant and was in hibernation. Sloth bears, which are listed as an endangered species, don't go into hibernation near the end of pregnancy.

Detroit Free Press, December 15, 2000

"Downed Animals" bill introduced in Congress

Modern factory farms are perhaps the greatest contributors to animal suffering today. Of the 9 billion animals who die in slaughterhouses every year, the suffering is compounded for "downed animals" --- animals who, because of unknown illness or injury, are unable to stand or walk from the stockyard to slaughterhouse.

Current policies do nothing to prevent livestock handlers from beating, kicking, and dragging these animals all the way to the slaughterhouse. Many downed animals are merely pushed with a bulldozer into a "dead pile," where they succumb to their injuries and illness.

This year, Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) has introduced S. 267, the Downed Animal Protection Act, to prohibit the transfer or sale of farm animals who cannot walk because of illness or injury. Because of the obvious animal suffering and the threat to human health that the downed animal situation poses, humane euthanasia is the only reasonable solution. S. 267 will provide this and other crucial steps needed to reform the agribusiness industry.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write to your Federal (not state) Senators today and ask them to support S. 267, The Downed Animal Protection Act. Tell them that this bill is essential for animal and human safety! Write to: The Honorable (full name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 or call (202) 224-3121 (U.S. Capitol Switchboard). *HUMANElines, February, 2001u*

Chicken manure was found to be the chief source of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Bay.
Washington Post, August 9, 2000

Another zoo mishap

On December 4, 2000, Medusa, a 17-year-old Sloth bear was found dead at the Toledo Zoo. With no food nor water for

March 20th marks the 17th Annual Great American Meatout

Join this year's headliners Casey Kasem, James Cromwell, Mary Tyler Moore, Earl Holliman, Rue McClanahan, Cassandra 'Elvira' Peterson, Kevin Nealon, Ed Begley, Jr. and Hayley Mills in promoting Meatout 2001 this March.

Culminating on the first day of Spring, March 20th, thousands of caring folks in all 50 states and several other countries will put on educational events ranging from simple information tables and exhibits to elaborate receptions, cooking demonstrations, festivals, and radio/TV shows. They will encourage people to **"kick the meat habit, at least for a day, and explore a more wholesome, less violent diet."**

For the past 17 years, Meatout has enjoyed broad public support from educators, health providers, manufacturers and retailers of eatless foods, public interest advocates, writers, mass media, public officials, and famous entertainers. To learn more, visit www.meatout.org.

Rescue Division Seeking Funds to Pay Off Debt!

The following individuals wanted their contributions celebrated in the following ways:
In memory of Bubba, Shawn and Kathy Sinicrope
In memory of Alex, we miss you so much. Love, Scott and Melissa (Make donation)

We still have some dogs who have not been placed into loving homes yet. Please check them out at www.animalmattersonline.org/dogs.asp. Tell your family and friends about them!

Did you know you can make a donation to Animal Matters in honor or memory of someone? Can't think of the right birthday present, holiday or special occasion gift? Can't think of something for that hard-to-buy-for person? All you have to do is send your donation to AM and tell us who want us to acknowledge and what is the occasion and we'll send that recipient a letter noting you made a contribution in their honor. What a great way for us to raise funds and it will make your person mighty pleased.

"In remembrance of someone who made our lives memorable"
"In recognition of someone who is important in our lives"
Sincerely,

Please cut out the form below and help us out any way you can. Here's what your donation can do:

- \$10 buys 2 dog ID tags
- \$50 covers 5 months of webhosting
- \$20 boards a rescue dog for 2 days
- \$135 buys postage for one AT mailing



Cut along dotted line and enclose in envelope provided

\$ _____ Donation Amount

In memory of _____ In honor of _____

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

EMAIL ADDRESS



Ask Scooter

Our staff expert, Scooter Wu, answers your questions on animal rights, liberation, cruelty and consumption. Email your questions to scooter@animalmattersonline.org or write Scooter c/o Animal Matters. Please take advantage of this forum to learn the answers to all those questions that seem to pop up as you attempt to live your lives free of animal cruelty.

Dear Scooter,

On your animal-friendly product guide (which I use ALL the time!!!), you have Neutrogena listed as cruelty-free in one section, and as "non" cruelty-free in another section. As far as I could tell, this meant that the skin care products aren't cruelty-free, while the hair care products are. Do I have it right?
Suzanne Eckland, Chicago, IL

Dear Suzanne,

Neutrogena is a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, who tests on animals, however Neutrogena doesn't. In the statement that we received from Johnson & Johnson, it states that "The ingredients in Neutrogena products have been proven safe historically, so instead of using laboratory animals to assess the safety of its formulations the company performs a number of predictive tests in humans."

Any new compounds, however, would of course require full safety testing that would include lab animals."

Sincerely,

Scooter



Dear Scooter,

Is Proctor & Gamble still testing? I thought I got something in the mail that stated it had stopped. But, then I got mail from someone else (I think PCRM or Legal Defense Fund) as if P&G is still testing? Do you know?
Rhoda Moss, Boca Raton, FL

Dear Rhoda,

With regard to Proctor & Gamble, they are not conducting animal tests on finished products for their beauty care, fabric and home care and paper products, except where required by law. This represents over 80% of their total product portfolio. In the letter that we received from them on December 2, 1999, they do not comment on testing their product ingredients or the other 20% of their product portfolio, therefore they are still listed as a testing company.

Sincerely,

Scooter



Dear Scooter,

I wanted to comment on the Scooter section in the Fall 2000 issue about the Omega-3's. I just wanted to add that even though flax seeds are the richest plant source, there are other ways to get the omega-3's in a more palatable form. I say palatable because I have been trying to add flax seeds to my food for almost a year now and I still don't like the taste of it, plus ground flaxseeds and flaxseed oil goes rancid fairly quickly. Anyway, the other good sources are in butternuts, wheat germ oil, walnuts and walnut oil. All my nutrition friends and professors eat a lot of walnuts! They are fatty, but it's not saturated. Plus, if you are eating vegan the right way, this food is probably a good addition to the diet. You don't want to get too little fat, and if the fat you get is this kind, then it's probably okay! Walnuts and walnut oil in homemade salad dressings are tasty, too. Anyway, I thought you might want to pass this info along to Crissy and Jim Shepherd and the rest of your readers.

Amy Chen, San Marino, CA

Ask Scooter, continued...

Dear Scooter,

I'm a teacher at Forest Glen Middle school and I'd like to share some good news. Recently I was chosen as environmental educator for the whole school and nominated Environmental Educator for Broward County (FL). The really good news is what occurred to get me there. Each morning my principal permits me to go onto a school-wide television program and discuss an "Environmental Minute" (which almost always has to do with animal issues. The principal also supported my having the whole school attend an assembly given by the Everglades Restoration Movement.

Next, I was permitted to host a school-wide socratic seminar. The Paidea committee flew in from North Carolina to see it. A socratic seminar is a discussion between the students with the teacher only serving as a facilitator. The whole school watched the video cartoon "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss which stresses the depletion of 3 species of animals due to the cutting down of the trees. Each classroom was lead into a discussion revolving around four questions (opening, 2 core, closing). Following this project is a penny collection for the Everglades Restoration Movement. This reached 1400 children as does the "Environmental Minute" each day on TV. The Paidea Committee will, hopefully, share this idea with schools throughout the US. In addition, I chair the Save What's Left group at our school. This group is made up of students. Our group is now collecting donations of dog food, cat food and bird food to be donated to several organizations. Lastly, the entire gifted team here at the school participated in a letter writing campaign to China protesting the use of Bear bile. I wanted to write this, certainly not to toot my own horn, but to thank Animal Matters for much of the information that I use in my Environmental Minute and to let you know that there are administrators, teachers, and students out there that are seriously entertaining environmental and animal issues...and we're proud! Thanks Melissa!

Signed,

Lisa DosSantos (proud owner of Surprise...your

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Animal Matters is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating the public of the use and abuse of animals through producing and distributing educational materials.

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Email Us!

- ◆ Do you know someone who would like to receive *Animals Today*? Send us his or her address.
- ◆ Would you like to receive *Animals Today* via email? Drop us a line.
- ◆ Have any questions for Ask Scooter? Write to scooter@animalmattersonline.org
- ◆ Want to get on the Animal Matters Email Alert list?

Contact Animal Matters at
info@animalmattersonline.org

willing to be an advocate for your pet.

Despite prejudice, negative attention, and constant legal battles against breed-specific legislation, AmStaff owners remain devoted.

Dog Fancy, July 2001

Ask police officers where the money goes when they bust a dog fighting ring. They should donate it to Pit rescue.

the
Exceller Fund adopted as examples.

After hearing their stories, how can people with hearts let the horses be sent to slaughter?

Now Is The Hour: A 12-year-old Thoroughbred that the Exceller Fund adopted and gelded. He was sent to a feedlot as soon as he was no longer useful at the track. Now Is The Hour was bred to win, having Nearco, Bold Ruler, Nasrullah, War Relic, and Raise a Native in his bloodlines. While racing, he won 25 allowance and claiming races, and earned in excess of \$150,000 during his career. Now Is The Hour is now adopted into a loving home, and is trained as a hunter/jumper.

Thunder Regent: Thunder is an old class horse that is the truest sense and a hard-knocker from way back. Purchased by the Exceller Fund at the age of 13, Thunder is a wonderful fellow who ran in the Breeder's Cup

Mile in 1992. At the peak of his career, Thunder defeated the likes of Dance Smartly in the King Edward Gold Cup Handicap, and ran 4th to Sky Classic in the Arlington Handicap. Thunder will eventually make a good riding horse, as his legs look clean for a horse that ran as long and hard as he. Thunder is currently at United Pegasus Foundation gaining weight and being loved.

Tell Me The Time: A 17-year-old Thoroughbred mare that Exceller

Fund purchased at Barrett's in January 1999. Telly also has great racing bloodlines including Count Fleet and Bold Ruler in her pedigree. Telly was in foal when she was purchased, and gave birth to a beautiful colt on April 3, 1999. Telly is sound, and has the potential to be a good riding horse. Telly is now enjoying her life at United Pegasus Foundation with some of the Exceller Fund's other horses.

(continued on next page ...)

Making a difference...

Let's look at how far we've come in making the U.S. a better place for animals (just in the past two years!):

- Oregon passed the strongest law in the country banning "canned hunts" of exotic mammals like cougars and other wild cats in enclosed areas.
- A North Carolina grand jury handed down the first ever animal abuse indictment against hog producers.
- New York State passed a bill elevating intentional and extreme animal cruelty to a felony offense.
- Top law schools, including Harvard, Georgetown and Rutgers, began teaching classes on animal protection law.
- President Clinton signed a bill outlawing the Internet sale of so-called "crush" videos, which depict small animals being crushed to death.
- Mary Kay Cosmetics pledged not to test its products on animals or buy ingredients from companies that still conduct animal testing, becoming one of the largest companies to make this promise.
- The nation's largest manufacturer of leghold traps (which are used to kill small animals) stopped making them due to dwindling profits.
- PepsiCo withdrew its sponsorship of all Mexican bullfights.
- Sears & Roebuck ended its sponsorship of Ringling & Bros. And Barnum & Bailey Circus following years of highly publicized animal accidents and deaths.
- Slovakia outlawed all cosmetic testing on animals.
- Israel banned animal dissection in all public schools.

Aren't you inspired looking at what is possible to make this world a better place for both humans and animals? Let's keep moving.

(Horse Racing, cont ...)

After hearing their stories, how can people with hearts let the horses be sent to slaughter? How can the statistics be changed? Not all horse people are that brave to step up and change the fate of these breathtaking creatures after their racing careers are over. After all, looking at the statistics can frighten even the bravest person away from this important issue. Saving one horse at a time is really the place to start, because the horses deserve to have normal retirement lives.

The following ideas are helping the fate of all ex-racehorses. Rescue organizations are available for owners and trainers to donate their horses to. Rescue people also watch the racing forms to see what horses are dropping into lower level claiming races, and purchasing the horses that really need to be retired. Horse rescues also scan the auction houses to see if any racehorses can be bought, rehabilitated, and placed into a loving home.

Breeders can put their name and phone number on the horse's registration and jot a quick note to let the last owner know they are willing to buy the horse when it needs to be retired, as most breeding farms have plenty

of paddock space, and stalls. A knowledgeable horse fan may want to buy the horse to take care of the animal though his golden years. The ex-racehorse may be able to be laid up for a short time period, and would make a great show horse, pleasure horse, trail riding horse, or maybe just a companion for an experienced horse person.

The horses can have a new career after they retire from racing if they are given the chance. Support your local rescue organizations, persuade race tracks to aid in Thoroughbred Retirement programs, and be on the lookout for ex-racehorses that can be purchased when their racing careers are over. If you have a favorite horse, let its trainer and owners know that you are interested in adopting him/or her when they are ready to be retired from the track.

If you want to help, but can't afford to own a horse, join The Exceller Fund (visit the website and see the horses at www.ExcellerFund.org). The horses certainly appreciate the help!

Say No to fur ... with a card!

See someone on the street in a fur coat and get really mad? What can you possibly say? Some of us just don't have the courage to speak up to those who don other animals' fur. The Humane Society of the United States just made it easier. Their new "fur-free" cards have facts about the gruesome fur industry. For instance, one card says, "It takes 40 animals to make a fur coat, but only one person to make a difference."

Simply hand the fur-clad individual with the business size card and be on your way. Maybe you changed their mind about wearing someone else's fur! To order a stack, contact dbays@hsus.org.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Motley Felinton

Shop for Animal Matters

Do some of your shopping at www.animalmattersonline.org and the animals will benefit! When you're on our site, just click on the following affiliate banners and up to 15% of every purchase you make will be given to Animal Matters!

www.igive.org
www.petsmart.com
www.maxiesmunchytreats.com
www.greatergood.com