



Newsletter
of the
New Hampshire Animal Rights League
October, 2012

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Peaceable Kingdom Screenings

After the latest version of the film, "Peaceable Kingdom," was released this summer, NHARL wasted no time in scheduling screenings of it. On September 15, it debuted in NH at the Nashua Public Library. On September 24, it was screened at The Good Karma Café in Exeter.



*A sweet mother with her
baby under her wing.
Photo courtesy of Tribe of Heart*

The film is the brainchild of James LaVeck and Jenny Stein who founded the non-profit production company, Tribe of Heart, in 2000. They went on to produce the documentaries, "The Witness" and "Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home"; both films are highly recommended by NHARL. "Peaceable Kingdom" details the life of Howard F. Lyman, whose odyssey went from cowboy to cattle rancher to animal rights activist, environmentalist, and vegetarian. The film chronicles his investigation of dangerous pesticides in livestock feed after he developed a spinal tumor. The film also showcases Maple Farm Sanctuary located close to us in Mendon, MA. It is the story of transformation and personal recognition that all sentient beings deserve to be treated humanely.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the screenings, especially Julia Sinclair and Jennifer Wolf. Also a special thanks to The Good Karma Café for providing us with vegan refreshments courtesy of NHARL.

NHARL's New Logo and Tent

The NHARL adopted a new logo this year. It can be seen in the upper left corner of this newsletter. It pictures three animals: a wild animal (bobcat), a domestic animal (chicken), and a companion animal (dog). It was difficult to make a final decision since the NHARL works for ALL animals, and we wanted to represent as many of them as we could in the new logo. Thanks go to Cindy Stave, a graphic designer and NHARL member, who designed the new logo at no cost to NHARL.

Once Cindy completed our new logo, we had to purchase a new, outdoor tent on which to affix it. We first used the new tent for vegan tabling at the August Vermont Reggae Festival. This outdoor festival provided a family-friendly place to enjoy music and promote the vegan lifestyle. Unfortunately, a flash wind/rainstorm descended on the fairgrounds and carried our tent about 500 feet. It crashed against a barn, its frame destroyed. Needless to say, we were all devastated.

It became important to replace the frame as soon as possible so we could match the surviving canopy. That Monday morning, we informed Hillary at Camel Back Displays that the premium tent frame we had just purchased from them was destroyed. She asked for some photos and talked to her production team. The company replaced the tent frame at no cost whatsoever, not even shipping. What a relief! We are indebted to Hillary and everyone at Camel Back Displays and will certainly consider another purchase from them, should we have the need and the budget.

Support the Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act

In September, representatives from New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS) and Jennifer Wolf of NHARL met with NH politicians to discuss The Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act. They met with staff at Senator Ayotte's and Congressman Guinta's offices and held a conference call meeting with Senator Shaheen's office. Jennifer presented the staff with a letter signed by almost 30 NH activists in support of the bill.

This Federal Legislation would release to sanctuaries all chimpanzees now being kept in federally funded research laboratories. This common-sense reform could save taxpayers nearly \$200 million. These chimps, more than 800, are not being used, and are sadly warehoused in confinement and isolation.

Worldwide, the United States and a very small country in Africa (Gabon) are the only two countries that have not banned research on chimps. Although close to us genetically, illness progresses differently in chimpanzees than it does in humans and, therefore, the results of AIDS and cancer research using them is invalid.

Also, chimps suffer greatly from stress. One individual, Jeanie, was said to have suffered from a complete nervous breakdown while in captivity in a lab. Stress has been found to be a contributing factor in disease and for this reason, along with many others, chimps have been determined to be poor test subjects.

You can help. Please contact your federal lawmakers about this bill. (It may be best to contact your congressperson after the November 6 election but contact Senator Kelly Ayotte and Senator Jeanne Shaheen at any time at D.C. Office, 144 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, 202-224-3324)

This graphic clearly shows that much work still needs to be done in New Hampshire for the Chimps!



Update: Ordinance Prohibiting Exotic Animals in Manchester, NH

Early last Spring, members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of Manchester were sent packets of information regarding Ringling Bros. circus cruelty. The packets included several photographs taken at Ringling's Center for Elephant Conservation in Florida, the signed/notarized statement of former Ringling trainer Samuel Haddock, detailing extensive use of electroshocks and bullhooks, a copy of the USDA Press Release from November 2011 regarding the unprecedented \$270,000. fine against Ringling for violations of the Animal Welfare Act, and a letter signed by forty activists asking the Board to pass an ordinance prohibiting the use of exotic animals for entertainment in Manchester. At their April 14, 2012 meeting, the Board voted to "receive and file" the Ringling information ... which basically means they threw it in the trash!! Although this was not the outcome we had hoped for, this was a valuable experience for several reasons. The entire packet of information sent to the Aldermen and Mayor was entered into the agenda of their meeting, as well as the minutes. It is now part of the public record and the first step for future discussions of this issue. Also, with help from PETA, we were able to clarify statutory issues regarding exotic animal performances in New Hampshire: Although the NH Fish and Game Department has exclusive control over captive and non-captive wildlife in the state, this does not limit a municipality's ability to control its own property. The Verizon Wireless Arena sits on property owned by the City of Manchester, so the Board of Aldermen absolutely has the jurisdiction to prohibit exotic animal acts on that property. In addition, there is another state law that gives any municipality the right to prohibit rodeos, carnivals, and so forth within its boundaries. We received conflicting reports about the advice on this subject given to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen by Manchester's City Attorney, however, the statutes make it very clear that the Board has the authority and jurisdiction to pass the ordinance we requested.

Finally, we learned that the City of Manchester receives no portion of performance receipts from Verizon Wireless shows, so cancellation of Ringling performances would have no direct affect on the City budget. During this process, it became very clear to me that an ordinance prohibiting exotic animal performances in Manchester will not be successful until one or more Aldermen are willing to commit to the plan and see it through. Unfortunately, last spring, this did not happen. Even the Aldermen who initially expressed support caved in when pressured by the rest of the Board. However, the current group of Aldermen will be up for re-election in 2013 and, hopefully, we will see some changes. For those living in Manchester, this is an important issue to discuss with new Alderman/ Mayoral candidates.

I am anticipating great changes in the New Hampshire Legislature this year. City governments will often follow the lead of the state... hopefully this will be beneficial for animals!

Jean

Summary of Animal Circus Appearances in New Hampshire

Piccadilly Circus - After an April appearance at the Everett Arena in Concord, this circus returned for a June performance in Rochester. Along with local activists, NHARL held protests in both cities. From a newspaper article in June, we learned that their elephant, Topsy, had tested positive for tuberculosis and was barred from entering Maine. We notified NH Fish and Game. Although we weren't given the official reason, neither Topsy nor any other elephant performed in Rochester. *Foster's Daily Democrat* had given this circus such favorable coverage that a number of activists wrote letters of protest to the editor. The price of tickets in Rochester was outrageously expensive at \$37 per adult; many people could not afford such a high price and left.

Kelly Miller Circus - This circus appeared in Hudson and Laconia in July. In Hudson, activists noticed an elephant, Traci, appeared ill. After a complaint was lodged with NH Fish and Game, a local veterinarian examined Traci and determined that despite her age related condition, she was able to perform. Activists wrote letters and held protests at both locations.

Ringling Bros. Circus - As usual, this circus performed once again at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester. Our four days of protests were extremely successful. We educated thousands of circus-goers and passers-by with our message. Thank you to everyone for braving a horrible downpour on Friday and to all the new activists we met. Thank you to Animal Allies for donating the most beautiful new signs to NHARL.

MAKE SURE
TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AND
GENTLE THANKSGIVING VEGAN POTLUCK

On
Thursday, November 10, 2012
At
12PM-2PM Potluck
2PM-4PM Meeting



At the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry, NH
Contact lindld@comcast.net if need more information.

This is a good opportunity to get to know each other, propose new projects, volunteer for our Team projects, and get involved in our humane activities. Prepare to make a commitment in the new year to a cause vital to the well-being of humans and animals in New Hampshire.

LET'S GET SERIOUS AND GET TO WORK FOR THE ANIMALS!

I regret to report that two of our Board members have been obliged to resign for personal and professional reasons: highly prized Board members, Colleen Levy and Doc Taylor. We hope that their resignations ease their busy lives. Happily, Doc will continue to be the NHARL veterinary advisor and Colleen will remain active in animal rights issues.

We are entering a new year for our organization. We need to foster solidarity and good works for animals. So much needs to be done. Let us resolve to dedicate 2013-14 as a focused and energetic year for accomplishing as much progress for animals as we possibly can--as we know all too well, animals cannot defend themselves. We would like to establish an overview of tasks and projects to which we would like your reactions and commitments. We will present these ideas to you by email, at meetings, and in the next newsletter. Please send your email address to Linda D. at lindld@comcast.net as this is the fastest and most efficient way to communicate. Let's activate our "base"--you!--and energize ourselves! Comments and criticisms welcome. Please bring your thoughts and commitments to our annual vegan potluck Thanksgiving dinner on November 10 in Derry New Hampshire. Potluck dinner will be eaten between 12 and 2pm. Our organizational meeting will occur at 2pm for as long as necessary. Volunteers will be able to sign up for projects.

Optimistically,

Linda Dionne and Barbara Hardy Beierl

Your membership and financial help is much needed and appreciated.

\$20.00 Regular member, age 15 or over.

\$5.00 Student member, Senior member, Junior member, (age 14 and under).

\$200.00 Life member, for self and spouse.

\$ _____ Sponsor/Donor who wants to support NHARL, without being a member.

\$ _____ Additional Donation.

\$ _____ Total. THANK YOU!

Name _____ Address _____

Address _____

Email _____