

Newsletter New Hampshire Animal Rights League, Inc.

A Note of Thanks!

NHARL was able to place the below ad against fur in the December 17th issue of the Union Leader because of you. Thank you to everyone for your continued financial support which makes running such ads possible!

Thanks also to everyone who helped out at our fur protests at Dino's International Fur in North Hampton. Over the years, NHARL has found peaceful protests to be an effective (and inexpensive) way to raise awareness about cruelty to animals, thereby encouraging the general public to make more compassionate choices in their own lives. Also, with various newspapers reporting on our protests over the years, countless numbers of people have been enlightened about animal abuse issues. As long as we continue to make every effort to engage with people in a calm, peaceful and clear manner, we will be effective in helping the animals.

"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." Elie Wiesel

**Wearing Fur or Fur Trim
is Cruel and
Unnecessary.**

Whether caught in barbaric steel traps or anally electrocuted after a life of misery in a cage on a fur farm, these animals suffer immensely! When you take a stand against cruelty by refusing to purchase fur and fur trim, designers will stop using fur, retailers will stop selling it, and fashion writers will stop reporting on it as an acceptable trend. **YOU** have that power with every purchase you make!

NH Animal Rights League, Inc. Concord, NH 03302
www.nhanimalrights.org
Photo courtesy of
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This is a copy of the ad NHARL ran against fur in the December 17, 2008 issue of the NH Union Leader.

Your membership and financial help is much needed and appreciated.

- ___ \$15.00 Regular member, age 15 or over.
- ___ \$5.00 Junior member, age 14 and under.
- ___ \$5.00 Senior member, age 65 and over
- ___ \$5.00 Student member
- ___ \$100.00 Life member, for self and spouse.

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

\$ _____ Additional Donation

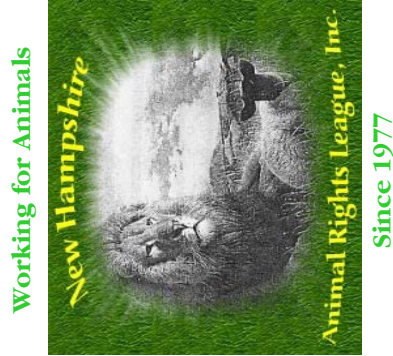
\$ _____ Total **THANK YOU!**

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Giving to NHARL through your will is one of the most important ways you can help animals for years to come. Making a bequest is easily executed with your attorney and can save your estate money in tax payments if the estate is subject to federal estate tax.



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Contributors to this issue: Linda Dionne, Tricia Orr,
Kat Ranalletti, Jean Slepian

[Lake Umbagog's Comprehensive Conservation Plan](#)

It has been a long time since we first heard about the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) of Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge in Errol, NH, part of which wanted to allow [lethal] fur trapping on the refuge. It was about August 2007 that we all attended hearings and submitted comments. All of our hard work paid off - at least for the time being.

In the final CCP, the US Fish and Wildlife Service recommends Alternative B – active management - out of the three alternatives. According to the final draft of Alternative B, “decisions relating to fur bearer management and trapping, and the expansion of the hunting program to include turkey and bobcat seasons, *would be deferred* and considered during separate planning and public involvement periods.” (The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s flier titled, *Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, under the heading **Some Important Changes Made in Response to Public Comment.**)

That trapping and the expansion of hunting has been deferred is wonderful news, but still leaves the door open to future approval of such activities, so we must be persistent in not letting that happen. If we participate in those opportunities for public comment, we can achieve success. We know this is true because in the CCP draft plan, “animal rights groups” are listed as one of the groups which “played an instrumental role in shaping our preferred alternative in the final document.” Our voices were heard, it’s right there in black and white!

Thank you to everyone for your help with this and for giving the animals this reprieve.

Go to this website to read more:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Lake%20Umbagog/>[ccphome.html](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/ccphome.html) and here <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Lake%20Umbagog/finalCCP.html> to read the Final comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental impact statement (EIS)

****HB 559**, prime sponsor Rep. Carla Skinder-This bill would change the role and make-up of the Fish and Game Commission. It would make the Commission an advisory-only group, and would require representation on the Commission by all user groups INCLUDING a person specializing in animal protection. This bill is a result of the 2008 audit of the NH Fish and Game Dept by the Office of the Legislative Budget Assistant. It will come up for a hearing before the House Fish and Game Committee on Feb 17, 2009, at 10:00 AM in the Legislative Office Building Rm 307. This is an extremely important bill, so if there is only one hearing you can attend this session, MAKE IT THIS ONE !! Although internal communications in the F & G Dept suggest that senior officials recognize the need for change to make the department viable, we anticipate huge opposition from rank-and-file hunters, fishermen and trappers who have had exclusive control of the Department up until this point. PLEASE COME TO THIS HEARING!! Remember, you don't have to testify and you don't have to stay for the entire hearing.... coming to the hearing and signing in for your support of the bill is very important!

SB 124, prime sponsor Sen. Peter Bragdon-This bill would allow landowners to put pipes into beaver dams, to protect wetlands and save the beaver dams, without purchasing an expensive dredging permit. This bill has been referred to the Senate Energy and Environmental Development Committee, but not yet scheduled for a hearing.

HB 427, prime sponsor Rep. Carla Skinder-Calling for equine licenses... has been withdrawn by the sponsor.

If you would like more information about any of these bills, public hearings, or the legislative process, please contact me at: jeans1155@hotmail.com.

[Buy a Video, Help NHARL!](#)

Nation Earth, a film production company dedicated to socially urgent issues, is releasing a special-edition DVD of *Earthings*, an award-winning documentary that shows the connection between humankind's absolute reliance on animals and the exploitation that results from such reliance. NHARL will soon be posting a promotional code on its website. If you would like to purchase *Earthings* for you and your family, or to show to a group in your community, go to Nation Earth's website (www.earthings.com), type in the promotional code and \$9.00 from your purchase will go directly to NHARL. It's a great way to help NHARL raise much-needed funds for future events, while educating those around you about the dire situation of animals around the world.

Dear NHARL Friends,

Here's a rundown on the key animal welfare bills in the 2009 NH Legislative Session, and where they stand with hearings and so forth. Keep in mind, though, that things change very rapidly at this time of year, so, for the latest updates and schedules, please check the www.nh.gov website, or contact me directly or NHARL.

HB 247, prime sponsor Rep. Tara Sad-This bill would clarify the role of the State Veterinarian in animal cruelty investigations. The public hearing is scheduled in the Environment and Agriculture Committee, Jan 29 2009 at 1:00 PM in LOB 308. Representative Sad is the new Chairperson of the Env Ag Committee, and is much more favorable to animal welfare legislation than the previous Chairman.

HB 630, prime sponsor Rep. Mary Cooney-This bill would ban live greyhound racing in New Hampshire. It has been referred to the House Local and Regulated Revenue Committee, but a public hearing has not yet been scheduled. This will be a very interesting bill in light of the recent bankruptcy of the Hinsdale greyhound track, and the controversy surrounding it.

HB 337, prime sponsor Rep. Carla Skinder-This bill would require temporary permits for anyone selling more than one puppy. The bill has been referred to the Executive Departments and Administration Committee, but not yet scheduled for a hearing.

HB 220, prime sponsor Rep. Carla Skinder-This bill would allow a prosecutor to request a civil forfeiture hearing for people arrested for animal cruelty, so that the confiscated animal victims could be released from Protective Custody to be adopted into new homes prior to a lengthy criminal trial. HB 220 had a public hearing in the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee on Jan 21, and is currently under consideration by that Committee.

SB 137, prime sponsor Sen. Sheila Roberge-This bill would create a pet friendly license plate with the proceeds to be deposited into the state's companion animal neutering fund. This bill has a public hearing before the Senate Transportation and Interstate Cooperation Committee on Feb 5 at 11:00 AM in the LOB Room.

Pheasant Stocking Legislation

Carla Skinder, who represents the Sullivan 1st District, has agreed to support legislation to ban pheasant stocking in 2010. NHARL approached Ms. Skinder about introducing legislation in 2009, but she declined, stating that she would not be able to give it the attention that is required.

Now is the time to begin building a strong and active coalition of supporters. We are confident that with enough member support this legislation can pass. Please contact Linda at 377-0225 or lindld@comcast.net if you are interested in being a part of the effort to ban pheasant stocking!

Pheasant hunting is basically a state run canned hunt where farm-raised birds are released around the state for the sole purpose of being gunned down by hunters, often minutes after they are released. It has nothing to do with re-introducing a specie. The birds that aren't shot do not survive in our NH environment and more will be bought next year. They will be bought each year until this abhorrent practice is outlawed.

Meet CLAW

Children Learning to Appreciate Wildlife, a.k.a., CLAW is the brainchild of Linda Dionne and Tricia Orr. CLAW's mission is to encourage kids to see that animals, as Alice Walker so aptly stated, "exist for their own reasons. They are not made for humans any more than black people were made for white..."

CLAW plans to have a table at wildlife-related events and offer specific ways for children to appreciate wildlife in respectful, non-violent ways. We expect there to be initial resistance to our attendance at some of these events, particularly those sponsored by Fish & Game. However, there is power in numbers! So please join us in this effort to reach out to New Hampshire's children. For more information and to find out ways you can help, contact Linda at lindld@comcast.net or Tricia at meltrish@tds.net.

Activists Brave Cold to Protest



Kat Ranalletti of Nashua, a member of the New Hampshire Animal Rights League, holds a sign in protest of the use of animal furs for clothing on Lafayette Road in North Hampton on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009
Scott Yates photo

Many thanks go out to the Seacoast newspapers for covering this story in the Portsmouth Herald hard copy and online. We especially appreciate reporter Karen Dandurant's incisive article which highlighted some of the crueler aspects of fur, i.e., animals being skinned alive. Also, we want to express our sincere gratitude to all those who attend and help out at our fur protests throughout the cold winter months.

Upcoming Events

February 11th

Vegan Statehouse Lunch – Citizens for Food that Makes a Difference – a newly formed subgroup of NHARL – will be serving a vegan lunch from 11:30 – 2:30. We are expecting 150 - 200 people to attend! Therefore, we need people to help serve food, pass out literature and greet attendees. If you would like to help out at this exciting event, please contact Laura Beth Slitt at maclaura@netzero.net

February 21st

NHARL Member meeting – We will be discussing important structural changes within NHARL, such as the development of subgroups that will focus on specific issues, i.e., wildlife protection, animals in research, humane education, factory farming, etc. These subgroups will allow people to dedicate themselves to an area of animal protection that is especially important to them. **Concentrating our energies into subgroups will be an excellent, highly effective way to help animals, so please join us to voice your ideas!** We hope to see you there! For more information, please contact us. Location of the meeting will be determined later.

March 20th

Meatout –Thousands of caring people in all 50 U.S. states and two dozen other countries get active to host educational Meatout events. Activities include colorful festivals, lectures, public dinners, feed-ins, cooking demos, food samplings, leafleting, information tables and more. **To find out how to host an event, visit: <http://www.meatout.org/action.htm>**

Remember: NHARL is here to help you in your efforts. If you have an idea for Meatout, but will need support to make it happen, please contact us.

April 18th

CLAW (Children Learning to Appreciate Wildlife) will have a table at Discover Wild NH Day, an annual event sponsored by Fish & Game. This is our first year to attend this event and it will be a great opportunity to educate children about ways to appreciate wildlife in respectful ways. We will be passing out free, kid-friendly materials from HSUS, such as coloring books and stickers, and will create a small backyard wildlife habitat display. To help out, please contact Linda Dionne at lindld@comcast.net or call 603-377-0225.

Puppy Mill Campaign

The anti-puppy mill billboard is up! It is an eye-catching, tri-vision billboard that faces both directions on Elm Street, in between St. Mary's Bank and Dunkin' Donuts. Anyone who is familiar with Sherry Bezanson's work on this campaign knows of her Herculean efforts to raise awareness about the horrors of puppy mills. The number of protesters at her Petland store protests has steadily increased since Sherry began in July 2008. In fact, one month before Christmas, protests were held every Saturday at one of the Pet Store locations. Thousands of holiday shoppers saw the message: *Don't Buy! Adopt!*

The fundraising for the billboard is on-going. If you would like to donate, go to www.PuppyMillDogsVoice.org where you can make an online donation or feel free to contact Sherry directly at Sherry.Bezanson@verani.com.

Advocates for Veganism – We Need You!

The group, Citizens for Food that Makes a Difference (CFMD) was recently formed under the umbrella of NHARL. Citizens for Food that Makes a Difference promotes a plant-based, nutritionally-complete diet composed of a variety of vegetables, grains and legumes.

CFMD recently learned of an amazing opportunity to offer their input about children's eating habits (vegan school lunch options!) in New Hampshire. The Commission on the Prevention of Childhood Obesity formed in November 2008 after the passage of H.B. 1422. This thirteen-member commission meets on the first Monday of every month to hear recommendations from professionals in relevant fields as to what can be done to keep kids healthy.

Currently, CFMD is in talks with the commission to have Dr. Antonia Demas, come and speak about her research. Dr. Demas is a vegan nutritionist from Cornell University and founder of the Food Studies Institute. www.foodstudies.org/

CFMD *will become a more influential voice as we increase in number*. Therefore **we encourage you to join us!** To find out more about CFMD and to help us get healthy plant-based lunch options onto NH school menus, please contact:

Laura Beth Slitt at maclaura@netzero.net

Tricia Orr at meltrish@tds.net (or call 603-456-2349)

Kat Ranalletti at bordercollyx@msn.com

Linda Dionne at lindld@comcast.net

Legislation Workshop with Jean Slepian

On January 10th, Jean Slepian, an animal protection activist who is well-versed in the intricacies of New Hampshire's legislative process, conducted an NHARL sponsored workshop at the Unitarian church in Concord. The workshop was packed with useful information which Jean conveyed in a clear, easy-to-understand manner.

Many people naturally feel intimidated to approach legislators. However, Jean's anecdotes of bleary-eyed legislative sessions that run until 3 a.m. and a baseball game-type scoreboard that keeps track of legislators' votes made everyone feel a bit more at ease about the whole process.

Jean stressed the importance of keeping in touch with legislators so that they learn your name. She explained that you can do this by sending a card during the holidays, or to express appreciation for a bill that passed. When preparing to present a legislator with an idea for a bill, or an amendment to a current bill, Jean urged everyone to be as specific as possible. Being specific shows you know what you're "talking about" and therefore increases the chances of the legislator(s) responding in a positive way.

Jean said that even if you don't have an idea for a bill, one of the most crucial actions you can take is to attend public hearings on legislation relating to animal protection. She went on to explain that when you do come to the public hearing, you can choose to either sign up to testify and state why you agree/disagree with the bill that's under consideration, or just as important, sign-in indicating your stance on the issue.

NHARL thanks Jean for sharing her extensive knowledge about the legislative process with us, and for her energy and commitment in getting laws passed that protect animals in the state of New Hampshire. Let's support Jean and the animals by showing up for public hearings and by contacting our legislators in 2009. To find out more about current animal protection legislation, the schedule of public hearings, or who your legislators are go to www.nh.gov

If you aren't online or need help with any of this please call us at 603-377-0225 or email us at info@nhanimalrights.org

Animal Rights Commentary by Tricia Orr

The term “animal rights” has increasingly been used as a slander by those whose bottom line is threatened when animals are treated with dignity. Because of this, many animal rights advocates shy away from using this term. One member said that she was hesitant to join NHARL because “animal rights” conjured up an image of belligerent people with a no-holds barred approach to activism.” The corporate media has done a great job, hasn’t it? Funded by agribusiness and pharmaceutical companies, it has managed to turn the term “animal rights” into a dirty word.

If you have read *Animal Liberation*, then you are familiar with Peter Singer’s sensible definition of animal rights which states that the word “rights” is a “shorthand way of referring to protections that people *and animals* morally ought to have.” Clearly, animals must be included because “there can be no moral justification for refusing to take their suffering into consideration.” (italics mine)

These words clarify that our movement is inextricably linked to, and every bit as important, as other Rights’ movements. Stating that you’re an animal rights advocate while engaged in conversation can lead to a productive, lively discussion. And yet...

I’ll admit that there have been times when I’ve chosen not to use these words, such as when I send a letter to the editor to a newspaper or magazine (particularly one with a “conservative” leaning). Without knowing who I am, some readers will undoubtedly jump to a negative assumption, especially since they have been conditioned to do so.

Although I can’t think of a better term than animal rights to describe the movement, helping animals means more to me than any label ever could. Anyway, I’m pretty sure the tormented animals of the world don’t care what we label ourselves. They just wish there were more of us.

***Legislation

It is so important that everyone support animal friendly legislation. Please find out who your legislators are and contact them when legislation comes before the NH House and Senate. If you aren’t sure or don’t feel familiar enough about a bill just ask us to help. You can call 603-377-0225 or send an email to info@nhanimalrights.org. Legislators DO listen to their constituents. And please try to attend the public hearings—for the animals.

A poem in honor of Albert Schweitzer who was a steadfast advocate for animals through his teaching and practice of “Reverence for Life.” His birthday was January 14th.

Taking Schweitzer’s Advice

A dream propped up with marble bookends.

Along its length, spines of obscured titles,

Within its depths, empty pages, save one-

a quote from a revered life that revered all lives:



“Think occasionally of the suffering of which you spare yourself the sight.”

It’s the next day and I’m Awake, sitting in my back yard, contemplating the suffering which I do not see until the skinny ribs of an abandoned dog replace the picket fence, and the ivy-choked maple becomes an elephant’s chained leg. There I sit in my sheltered spot until I can no longer,

until the agony of empathy forces me to stand up and keep standing up.

The Season for Non-Violence

Begun by Mahatma Gandhi’s grandson, Dr. Arun Gandhi, the Season for Nonviolence commemorates the 64 days, (January 30 through April 4th), between the memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a time to educate, inspire, and celebrate nonviolence against all living beings.

We hope everyone will dedicate some time during the Season for Nonviolence to raising awareness about the plight of animals on factory farms, on fur farms, in research labs, in puppy mills, in circuses, and those being hunted and poached in the wild. *One easy way to do this is to tell just one person – a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker – about NHARL’s mission of working to make life better for all animals. Invite them to join us in our mission.* NHARL saw an increase in membership in 2008. Let us continue this hopeful trend in 2009!