



Newsletter for
December 2011

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New Hampshire Animal Rights League

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Snapping turtles deserve protection!

NHARL member Suzanne Fournier found a news story about a hunter who killed three large snapping turtles for sport in August quite disturbing. Snapping turtles, like other NH turtle species, are supposed to be non-game, that is, not hunted, fished or trapped for sport. NH regulations in fact protect turtles to some extent by limiting possession to two animals per species. However, NH Fish & Game explains that there is a loophole for possession of dead turtles for which there is no limit. Suzanne filed complaints with F&G as well as the NH Attorney General's Office, and in September wrote the following letter-to-editor that was published in at least one newspaper. All this negative attention resulted in F&G stating they are **reviewing regulations for snapping turtles*** to see if they can be improved. Read Suzanne's letter below and see what you think about this issue.

"Simply Barbaric: Making Necklaces from Turtle Paws"

Making necklaces from the paws of large snapping turtles is exactly what Ted Walski writes he plans to do in his article in *Hawkeye Magazine* (Sept. 2011, Sec. 1, p.6).

Mr. Walski tells of his recent trip into river marshes with his buddy for the purpose of "Harvesting Bottles & Turtles on Ashuelot River." His friend hooked three turtles then killed them by striking their heads with a hammer.

Neither of them seems to care that snapping turtles, like other turtles in NH, are actually "nongame species," or that they have a regulation limiting possession to two turtles.

It may surprise you that Mr. Walski is a top biologist held in high esteem at NH Fish and Game Department. If you'd like to complain to Fish and Game as I have, then call 271-2462 or write the Chief of Wildlife at steven.weber@wildlife.nh.gov

Sincerely,

Suzanne L. Fournier

***Because NH Fish and Game is "reviewing regulations for snapping turtles" it is more important than ever to let them know that you feel strongly that snapping turtles deserve protection from this type of barbaric killing. Please contact the Fish and Game Department and ask them to protect these amazing creatures.**

Foie Gras

The NHARL recently wrote to two restaurants located in Manchester, NH asking them to remove foie gras from their menus. Foie gras is made from the enlarged liver, usually served as a pate, of tortured birds who are cruelly force-fed massive amounts of food over their brief life spans. If you'd like to help in this effort the contact info of the restaurants is below.

36 deLux Restaurant

36 Lowell St.

Manchester, NH

603-644-1180

<http://www.36delux.com/>

The Hanover Street Chophouse

149 Hanover St.

Manchester, NH 03101

603-644-2467

<http://www.hanoverstreetchophouse.com/>

To learn more about foie gras please visit the Farm Sanctuary website: <http://www.nofiegras.org/>

There are several significant animal related bills in the NH Legislature for 2012

First, the good news ...

Representative Laurie Harding, Democrat from Lebanon, has introduced a bill (LSR 2012-H-2263) to remove all references to "equine products" from our current meat inspection statutes (Chapter 427 of NH State laws) . According to our state veterinarian, Dr. Steven Crawford, it has never been the intention of the Legislature or the NH Dept of Agriculture to authorize horse slaughter in NH, however, inclusion of the term, "equine products" in the meat inspection chapter has been of concern to horse lovers and friends. Hopefully, Dr. Crawford will not oppose this bill, though that will depend on the final language.

Representative David Kidder, Republican from New London, and **Representative Paul Simard**, Republican from Bristol have introduced a bill (LSR 2012-H-2213-R) to prohibit the taking of deer from baited areas. There have been several previous legislative attempts to prohibit deer baiting, none of them successful. Last year, Representative Simard introduced two bills to prohibit bear baiting, but withdrew them before the session began.

However, the current deer baiting bill may have a better chance as it is being introduced by conservative, male, Republicans. Also, strangely enough, the extreme right wing conservative Majority Leader in the House of Representatives, David Bettencourt, is a real animal lover who has co-sponsored and supported many previous animal welfare bills and he may support this one as well. We'll watch this bill carefully and hope for the best. In addition, there will be two bills in the Legislature, one in the House and one in the Senate to add a bittering agent to antifreeze to make it less palatable to children and animals. Similar bills have been tabled several times in the Legislature, and I don't think there's much of a chance that legislators will approve an additional expense for consumers and business owners for a problem that is not that prevalent.

Now for the bad news ...

Representative Seth Cohn, Republican from Canterbury, has submitted a bill to eliminate the requirement for dog licensing (LSR 2012-h-2441). Dog licenses pay for NH's low cost spay-neuter program; dog licensing is also a critical component of the rabies control program; dog licenses reunite lost dogs with owners, and identify dogs that bite humans or other dogs. I'm sure that our state vet will oppose this bill, as will the state's shelters. I don't think it has a chance, but this bill is so ridiculous that I am planning to attend the public hearing just to see if Rep. Cohn has a logical explanation for this idea ...

Representative Andrew Manuse, Republican from Derry, has introduced a bill (LSR 2012-H-2269-R), "relative to innovative cosmetic or esthetic treatments".

The title of this bill has changed considerably since it was originally introduced and is quite deceptive in its current form. Rep Manuse is actually trying to make it legal for business entrepreneurs to use live animals in innovative cosmetic or esthetic treatments.

Currently, hair stylists, salons and spas are regulated by the NH Board of Barbering, Cosmetology and Aesthetics. The Board shut down a fish pedicure business that was operated by one of Rep. Manuse's constituents. He has submitted this bill so that his constituent can continue to operate her business without interference from the Board.

I don't think this bill has much of a chance because of public health concerns, but I will be watching it carefully as the potential for animal abuse is chilling.

The full text of new bills is generally not available until early January, however it is not too soon to contact your own legislators to ask for their support/opposition to these bills. For more information about these bills, the legislative process, or how to contact your NH legislators, please e-mail me at: jeans1155@hotmail.com.

Thanks to Jean Slepian for this legislation info.

And the winner is.....

The NH Animal Rights League is proud to announce that the winner of PETA's national contest for the Sexiest Male Vegetarian over 50 for 2011 is none other than our own veterinary adviser, Dr. Barry Taylor. Dr. Taylor owns the Franklin Veterinary Clinic, is a life member of NHARL, a member of our Board of Directors, and has been a vegan for nearly 30 years. Congratulations, "doc"!

Here's an article doc wrote for PETA.....

I was born to fight for the animals. My mother loved to tell the story of my first word. For most babies, it's "mommy" or "daddy". At about a year of age, I pointed to Buck sitting at the foot of my high chair and said, "dog". From there, it was pretty clear the path my life would take. Everything in my developing years was about animals. The pictures I drew, the books I read, the costumes I chose all showed a clear pattern. It was always about the animals.

My parents nurtured my interests, taking me on salamander and frog hunts, encouraging me to interact with turtles and snakes, identifying footprints, and involving me in my mother's small-scale bird rescue activities, which usually involved hand raising a half dozen orphaned or injured baby birds of all descriptions each spring. And it was always about the welfare of the animals. Wild creatures could be observed, and occasionally handled, but then returned to the wild before any harm came to them.

It was the kind of home life that was almost certain to spawn a lifetime commitment to animals, and when I reached first grade and all my friends were aspiring to be firemen and football players, there was never any doubt what I was going to be: a veterinarian. Despite interests in sports and music, a love of reading and the English language, I was born to be a veterinarian. I've never regretted giving my life to the animals. I could never imagine doing anything else.

I wasn't raised in an Animal Rights kind of household, though. There was still always meat on the table, although I gave it up almost immediately after leaving home for college, and pets had their place. Cats weren't allowed an indoor litter box except in the winter, and dogs . . .? Well, that's what this column is really about.

Remember Buck? The first family member I honored with his very own syllable? Buck was a nice dog. A really nice dog. Never nipped anyone, never eliminated in the house, never fought with another animal. But in the early 60s, relatively few male dogs were neutered, and Buck was no exception. So Buck ran off. Constantly. He chewed things. He stole the neighbors' laundry and brought it home. When my dad decided to tie him up to keep him contained, he ripped all of the siding he could reach off one side of the house. He was sweet. He was beautiful. But he was untrained and "incorrigible", according to my parents. So, when we moved from New Brunswick, OH to Vernon, CT in 1961, Buck stayed behind at a shelter. I was upset, but I was also only two.

Horrible, right? Yet a version of this scenario is happening in your neighborhood right now. A friend, a neighbor, or a family member is making the decision that the dog or cat that has lived with them and loved them for years is a nuisance, or too expensive, or sheds too much, or smells bad or runs away too often, and so they are making plans, right now, to leave him or her at a shelter. And YOU have to intervene. Buy them a gift certificate for dog training or grooming. Offer to brush/walk/play with the dog on a regular basis. Help them out with the cost of neutering their cat. Tell them you care about what they're about to do. Tell them they'll break their pet's heart. Tell them they'll break yours.

Pets are a lifetime commitment. When you decide to become your pet's guardian, you are making him/her a promise that you will cope with whatever comes up, to the very best of your ability. You will see them through disease. You will have them vaccinated, altered, and groomed if that's necessary. You will deal with less than perfect behavior through gentle training. For richer, for poorer, for better or worse, in sickness and in health. You know the words. The only difference is, your ex can get along without you. Your pet can't. Their love is unconditional. Yours should be too.

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 _____

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.

Miscellaneous

The annual member meeting was held at the Marion Gerrish Community Center. The ballots were counted and the new board announced. Two new board members were welcomed!

At this time of year many of us hear from “The Heifer Project”, a non-profit organization that provides impoverished countries with animals to use as food sources. For many reasons this is a bad idea, as we all know. An NHARL member proposed suggesting “The Seva Foundation” to people as an alternative for our charitable dollars. She stated, “this organization does great work (for humans), plus there are some good old hippies on the board, Ram Dass & Wavy Gravy, and that always makes me feel good!” Website: www.seva.org

Please don't forget the animals at this time of year. Many shelters and rescues can use donations of food and money. Thank you to everyone for your support and donations! Have a happy and safe holiday season everyone!

Favorite quote of the year

If you've been following the news you have heard of the Occupy Wall Street movement. While we may not agree with everything the protesters are saying, anyone who cares about animals can certainly find nothing wrong with this part of their list of grievances against corporations:

"They have profited off of the torture, confinement, and cruel treatment of countless animals, and actively hide these practices."



Animal Rights Displays

The circus display pictured to the left was created for the Lucky Dog Thrift Shop in Nashua, NH. It was in conjunction with NHARL's protests held in October against the Ringling Bros circus. The display provided a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about circus animal cruelty while offering a list of humane non-animal circuses as alternatives. Hopefully after seeing this circus display, and the protests, people will have a change of heart and will choose not to attend the circus.

NHARL has also set-up AR displays in the Manchester library. Maybe you'd like to do this in your local library. If you need materials please let us know. **This is a great time of year to set-up an anti-fur display.** Also Lucky Dog Thrift Shop welcomes animal rescue & welfare organizations to set up displays at their non-profit shop, where all proceeds support Lucky Dog's local, needy, pet community.

Upcoming Events

We have many events still in the planning stage. From fur protests, movie screenings, to vegan tabling, we are always in need of volunteers. Please let us know if there is anything you'd be willing to help us with. Thanks!

NHARL Board of Directors

Mary Albenzi, Linda Dionne, Cindy Glenn, Colleen Levy, Emily Murphy, Linda Rauter, Barry Taylor, DVM