Pheasant Stocking

The pheasant stocking program of the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) has many problems. Last year a pheasant hunter was shot and measures have been taken to protect the stockers. Pheasant sites are now closed to hunting until noon on stocking days. This protects the stockers but does nothing to protect landowners and others. Because of landowner's complaints about "poor hunter ethics" many sites are being lost, five just this year, and the remaining sites are becoming more and more congested with hunters.

One release site we visited in Oct. had hunters arriving onsite 20 minutes after the birds were released. This is nothing more than a canned hunting situation with birds who are dazed, confused, and have no survival skills. Everyone involved should be embarrassed, especially an agency that prides itself on promoting fair chase hunting. There is nothing fair chase about releasing farm-raised birds with no survival skills into a pre-publicized area and allowing hunters to begin shooting moments after they are released.

Pheasants are bought, 11,936 of them in 2015, from a farm in MA. They are crammed four into a crate for the long ride to NH. Because of the rough handling, stress, and long confinement in the crates they harm each other. The poor condition of the birds is highlighted in an NHFG internal email that the NHARL received through an information request. In that email a NHFG staff member describes the birds, as she sees them upon arrival, as having "injuries of severe pecking, blind birds, birds with head injuries and birds with broken wings." This staffer recommends closing the pheasant stocking program due to the many problems associated with it.

NHFG does not make any money from this program. License fees are used to purchase next year's birds. The program costs the dept. money in overhead costs associated with the program such as having highly-trained and highly-paid biologists doing the menial task of loading and unloading crates of pheasants.

NHFG should be forced to spend its money, which is in short supply, on programs that will better reflect its mission more honorably. The practice of pheasant stocking and hunting should end.

Do You Believe Animals Have Emotions?

Yes, we do. Particularly mammals; they have limbic systems much like we do. That is the emotional seat of the brain. But science is proving that other animals have feelings as well, including fish! Jonathan Balcombe has done great work in that area. Please check out the website or even better support him by purchasing his book; “What A Fish Knows.”

http://jonathan-balcombe.com/
Protection of Beaver Legislation

The Voices of Wildlife in NH is asking for our help in passing the Protection of Beaver legislation which will be heard in the 2017 NH legislative session. This bill will change an existing statute, RSA 210:9, and will give beavers and their ponds much needed protection. The most important change to the statute will be to require the use of humane solutions, such as water flow devices, in dealing with beaver damage control. The killing of beaver to protect property shall only be done as a last resort and with a required permit.

Please contact your Representatives and ask them to support this legislation. You can easily find who represents you at http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/wml.aspx. You can call them at home or send them an email or a letter. As a constituent, your elected officials are interested in hearing from you. Most welcome the opportunity to talk to the people they represent.

This legislation will be heard in the NH House of Representatives Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee and could have a hearing in January. Please call or write your lawmakers soon. We don’t have a bill number yet. If you need any more info please let us know or write an email to voicesofwildlifeinnh@gmail.com or give us a call at 603-377-0225.

There will also be a petition to sign to support this bill. Please check the website to find out how to sign the petition or how to get more involved: www.voicesofwildlifeinnh.org

Upcoming Events

February 2 - Wildlife in Captivity talk given by Kristina Snyder for UNH AWA at 8 PM in Rm 302 in the MUB. Please RSVP to our email if you would like to attend. Seating is limited.

February 4 - Cecil Protest in Manchester, NH. Check Facebook or our website for details as they are posted.
The Year In Review

January: We continued working on the bobcat campaign until April when NH Fish and Game withdrew the proposal to open a bobcat hunting and trapping season.

February: James staged a rally for Cecil in Manchester, to coincide with Safari Club International’s annual conference in Las Vegas. The Cecil rally is a worldwide event. There will be another in 2017.

April: At the NH Fish and Game’s Discover Wild NH Day, we protested against fur outside this event. Spokesperson Julia and other attendees received media coverage in the Concord Monitor.

May: We tabled at VegFest, the annual event sponsored by Susty's Café of Northwood.

May: During the Ringling Circus performances at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester we held protests and received media coverage. Spokesperson Kristina was seen on WMUR TV.

June: At the Stratham SPCA Paws Walk we had a vegan table and gave out samples of Susty's vegan sandwiches and vegan literature.

June: We tabled at the 3-day event Concord Market Days. The first two days James tabled for Lolita; on Saturday Cindy and Linda tabled for veganism. Meatless primal strips were donated to us by Primal Foods to give out for the vegan table.

June - September: Our summer monthly Lolita protests began in June. Protests are held at Water Country in Portsmouth because Palace Entertainment owns both Water Country and the Miami Seaquarium. Lolita is held captive at the Miami Seaquarium. Board member James also holds the position of the NH Captain of Shut Down Palace, the organization working to retire Lolita.

August: Our summer vegan potluck outing was held at Odiorne Point in Rye. The food was delicious and the weather was absolutely perfect.

September: James tabled at the Bedford Animal Rescue League Pet Fair to bring awareness to Lolita and to all marine life in captivity.

October and November: The UNH Animal Welfare Alliance student group invited us to give talks at their meetings. In Oct., James gave a talk about Lolita; in Nov. Emily gave a talk about veganism.

November: Our Gentle Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck/Annual NHARL Member Meeting was held at the Marion Gerrish Community Center in Derry. More people are attending every year and soon we should move to a bigger room. This year we had over 50 people attending. Granite State Naturals of Concord donated two gift baskets for this event. We used a trivia game and a free raffle to give the gift baskets as our way of saying thank you to everyone. And thank you Granite State Naturals!

November: A Fur Free Friday protest was held at the Mall of Manchester the day after Thanksgiving.

Ongoing Projects

Land Posting Project - We gave out many free No Hunting signs during the Save the Bobcat campaign. Let us know if you or someone you know would like some.

Beaver Grant - NHARL provides a $500 matching grant to any landowner in NH who installs beaver flow devices rather than killing the beavers. Please request an application for anyone interested.

Facebook Page - This year we began a new Facebook page after we received some pictures of the dairy barns at UNH. This new Facebook page, “UNH Dairy’s Dark Side,” will bring more awareness to the cruelty of the dairy industry and to the “dark side” of dairy at UNH.
Legislation

Dear NHARL Friends,

Following is a list of bills (and prime sponsors) related to animals that will be considered in the 2017 NH Legislature... this list is not comprehensive...there are several other bills related to animals (for example, allowing animal shelters to place tourist related advertising on their properties), but these are the major bills...not a lot going on this year related to animals, but it will be very controversial!!

2017-162, K. Rogers, relative to cruelty to non-captive wildlife
2017-288, C. Matthews, relative to protection of beavers
2017-298, J. Bradley, establishing a commission to study changes to the Fish and Game Commission and Department
2017-388, B. Chirichiello. relative to animals abandoned in foreclosure proceedings
2017-627, D. Eaton, relative to the duties of the Fish and Game Commission
2017-668, D. Cote, establishing a registry for persons convicted of animal cruelty

In addition, in his budget proposal, State Veterinarian Stephen Crawford is proposing to amend RSA Chapter 437, so that his department will no longer be responsible for yearly inspections of Dept. Agriculture licensees (large breeders, pet shops, animal shelters, livestock sales). Although this sounds like a bad idea, it might actually have a silver lining, as it would mean that local law enforcement officers/ACOs could respond to cruelty complaints against Dept. Agriculture licensees.

Full text of the bills should be available on the state's website within the next couple of weeks... bills should be assigned to Committees after the first of the year.

It looks like we have some really good animal people in the Legislature this year...while the overall outlook, I believe, is not favorable to animals, we need to track these bills and voting records carefully to see who our friends are for future sessions.

Jean

Thank you Jean Slepian for watching legislation for us. To learn more and keep updated you can follow bills at this link: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/

Contact Us

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To become a member or make a donation use the membership/donation form and paypal at the website or send a check, made out to NHARL, to our PO Box. Yearly membership is $20 and Students, Juniors, or Seniors are only $10. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated. Thank You!

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Inscribed on the Robert F. Kennedy gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery