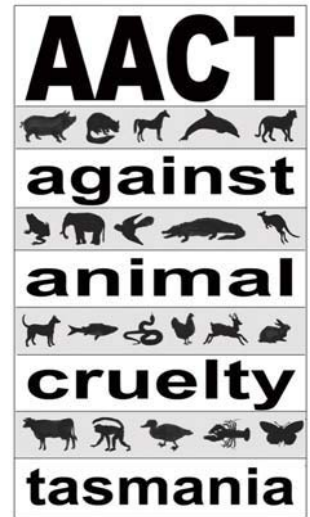


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AACT Now

quarterly news from Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania

Volume 2, Issue 1

June 2005

Boycott. It's become a dirty word. Those who strive for fatter profits by cruelly mutilating our sheep, painfully poisoning our wildlife and even razing our forests to the ground are sanctioned by government. Yet when we, as consumers, try and protect the world and sentient life around us, by calling to action other consumers, we are threatened with legal action. Cruelty and destruction are welcomed if they'll lead to greater profits; kindness and preservation seem to invite litigation.

Consumer action is one of the most powerful means available to individuals unhappy with the true cost of other's profits. When consumers speak with one voice, a voice that resounds with purpose and conviction, only foolish profiteers ignore it. But now such voices are being quashed at the first hint of them sounding. Consumers are being silenced.

But will we be silenced? Will we simply lie down and accept the same cruel fate that is meted out to our callously-treated factory-farmed fellow beings. Will we accept being locked in cages of silence and despair?

Don't buy products of cruelty. And tell your friends why. Don't support companies destroying our world – leave their goods on the shelf. And if necessary, go without until an alternative emerges. Products that don't sell will no longer be stocked. Unscrupulous companies will fall. And substitutes will abound. So next time you make a purchase, remember to demonstrate the mammoth might of the consumer. Just don't mention the "B" word.

Craig Quarmby

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STOP PRESS

Billions of farm animals to benefit from first ever international animal welfare standards

On May 24, in Paris, delegates of the OIE (World Animal Health Organisation) from its 167 member countries (which include Australia) voted to adopt global standards for the transport and slaughter of live animals. The adoption of these first ever international guidelines will give the OIE's member countries a framework within which exists the potential to improve the welfare of the billions of farm animals which are transported - and slaughtered - across the globe each year. The standards, which cover Sea transport, Land transport, Slaughter for Human Consumption, and Slaughter for Disease Control, were unanimously adopted during the OIE's annual meeting. This follows a Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) reception attended by 300 delegates from the meeting, which saw the launch of a new film, "Animal Welfare: The World Is Watching". The film contained calls from concerned citizens from every continent (including AACT coordinator, Yvette Watt) in support of global standards in animal welfare, and footage demonstrating the terrible conditions in which millions of horses, pigs, cattle and sheep, as well as other farm animals, are transported. In addition, thousands of postcards in support of the proposed animal welfare standards from concerned citizens around the world were presented to Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of OIE. The standards will take immediate effect within the OIE's 167 member countries across the globe when they are formally adopted on Friday 27th May.

Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania is a not-for-profit group based in Hobart, Tasmania. Our aim is to eliminate all exploitation, cruelty and suffering of animals within our state and beyond.

We strive to facilitate change through non-violent action, education and political lobbying on a wide variety of issues. Our current campaigns target the live export industry, intensive farming, and duck shooting.

At all times, AACT strives to respect the diverse opinions of its members and supporters through our action.

AACT liaises with appropriate groups and organizations to achieve our objectives, which are:

- to encourage and support cruelty free living
- to identify and campaign against the inhumane treatment of animals within Tasmania
- to respond to national and international animal cruelty issues as appropriate



COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Members' meeting

A huge thank you to those members who came along to our member's meeting on May 22nd. It was a good turnout and great to see some new faces! We really appreciate your input and members' meetings are a great way of sharing ideas about campaign strategies. It's also great to meet some of our members in person! Our next members' meeting will be on 4pm, July 24 at the Environment Centre, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart. Hope to see you there!

Office

We're in! Finally we have moved into our office at the Environment Centre! While we don't have the resources to staff the office at this stage, it is important for AACT to have a central location to store our growing pile of magazines, placards, banners, leaflets, stickers etc, as well as to be able to have a filing cabinet that can be

accessed by anyone on the committee at any time. Our members meetings will be held at the Environment Centre from now on, so come along and see where we are!

Live Export Ad at State Cinema and a huge THANK YOU to the Republic Hotel

As part of our campaign to end live export, we have paid to have an advertisement run at the State Cinema advertising our Rally Against Live Export on June 9. Additionally, our "BAN LIVE EXPORTS" banner has been placed on the external wall of the Republic Hotel on the corner of Burnett and Elizabeth Streets in North Hobart. This corner gets a great deal of passing vehicular and foot traffic and we are extremely grateful to the Republic Hotel for allowing us to place our banner there *free of charge*.



RECENT ACTION REPORTS

LIVE EXPORT

Suzanne Cass

AACT's live export campaign is moving into top gear with the **forum to be held by Minister Steve Kons in Launceston on June 10**. Both AACT and Animals Australia wrote to Mr Kons asking to attend the forum to present the animal welfare perspective, and both requests were refused. Mr Kons feels that animal welfare is not part of the "terms of reference" of the forum.

AACT Committee and members will be at the Courtyard at Salamanca on Friday evenings

between now and then, handing out flyers for the **Rally to be held on Parliament House Lawns on June 9**, at which we will be presenting our petitions to the State Government. We have an estimated 3,500 signatures now on the petitions, and are still gathering more. If you can help, please contact Suzanne on 0414-726-935. We would also love to see as many people as possible at the rally and, for Northern members, at the Tramsheds at Inveresk from about 9.30 a.m. when the forum is being held.

We attended Agfest on May 6 and 7, with our Ban Live Export banners and, while set up outside the main exit, attracted a great deal of attention - 95% of it very supportive. The following weekend Emma, Wesley and Lucky (and Fudge the piglet and Nicky the orphaned

puppy) were at the Million Paws Walk, at which over 130 people signed the live export petitions as well as postcards protesting about the cruel pig farming methods in Australia.

Also in the news and helping the cause enormously has been Animals Australia's landmark case in the Western Australian Courts, a complaint that was originally lodged with the WA Police in 2003. The WA Police passed the complaint to RSPCA WA, who chose to ignore it, and Animals Australia was eventually forced to lodge a Writ of Mandamus to force the WA government to investigate the complaint after it was passed between the State government there and the Federal Government. If this prosecution, under the WA Animal Welfare Act is successful, it could mean the end of the cruel live export trade, since if the trade breaches Animal Welfare laws in one state, it can no longer be justified in other states. AACT could be looking to lodge a similar complaint in Tasmania if and when another shipment is attempted.

PETA's campaign against mulesing and the live export trade also continues to gain momentum and keep the industry in the public spotlight and, of course, it all helps in our efforts to see the export of live animals to overseas countries on third world wrecks of ships banned forever. Other news indicates that many of the ships being currently used in the live export trade will be sub-standard when new animal welfare laws come into effect in 2006 (they are actually sub-standard now), and the industry may find itself short of ships to meet what it describes as a huge increase in demand in the Middle East with the re-opening of the trade to Saudi Arabia. Animals Australia has uncovered evidence that animals have in fact been sent to Saudi Arabia all along, through "back door" methods of sending them to neighbouring countries and transporting them from there, or through the use of multi-port destinations.

The live export trade is a mass of lies, smoke and mirrors, as well as horrific cruelty. The "success" of the industry is based upon "mortality events" which are known to be untruthful, but which most of all do not take into account the suffering of the animals both in transport and at slaughter. AACT remains strong in its commitment to see it ended forever.

PLEASE help us to eliminate paper usage by letting us know if you are able to receive this newsletter via email.

A BIG thank you to Tony at the Republic Hotel for allowing us to have our banner and posters at the Hotel!

UPCOMING LIVE EXPORT ACTIONS

Rally at Parliament Lawns from 12 noon until 1.30pm on Thursday June 9
when we will present the live export petition to parliament

Protest outside Inveresk Railyards In Launceston on Friday June 10 where the Live Export forum convened by Steven Kons forum is to take place.

We need as many people as possible at both events to show Mr Kons and all those at the live export forum that animal welfare should be on the agenda.

Contact AACT closer to the time for confirmation of details.



DUCK SHOOTING

Catherine Silcock

Ducks ducks ducks!

NICE ACTION! Thank you to everyone for your presence at the Ban Duck Shooting action in Murray Street last week. This was planned to mark the imminent close of the 2005 season, had a lot of media attention and was all done and dusted in a lunch time. Thanks so much to Ben for all your work. (Want something done? Ask a busy person.)

Our message, of course, was that duck shooting should be banned in Tasmania as it is outdated and cruel. It has never been legal in the ACT, is banned in W.A and N.S.W. and a moratorium has been placed on it in Queensland for 2005. Public opinion clearly favours a ban - a petition submitted in the mid 1990s held around 10 000 signatures while the current number of shooters is under 1 000.

Minister Judy Jackson's comment dismissed our call for a ban on the grounds that shooting in Tasmania is well managed. We will respond that even impeccable management does not legitimise cruelty and to revisit a few of the finer points: shooting in Tasmania is not well

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managed, the appalling and non-centralised licensing system does not allow for even the most basic tracking of non-compliant shooters, enforcement allocations are token, new regulations for steel shot in place of lead shot come with no established penalty for offenders, and the list goes on. Even regulated to precision it doesn't change things much for a duck. We're working for that ban!

Look out on the web site for more actions to join, and give Judy Jackson a call on 6233-4180 to tell her what you think.



AGFEST

Catherine Silcock



Didn't we have a LUVVERLY time the day we went to AGFEST?!

What an experience! And exposure scoop of the month! Put this on your calendar for next year everyone. This was a first time for us, a bit of a reconnaissance mission. With some strong planning and numbers for next year, this is a real opportunity!

- Crowds of thousands. *Excuse me, would you be interested in a leaflet?*
- Political candidates doing not much. *Can we talk about Live Export?*
- Miles of fencing. *I think I'll put this poster just here.*
- Queues for dogwood dogs as long as Liverpool Street. *Would you like to read about savebabe.com?*
- Police who couldn't have been more helpful. *Stay off the road, Love, but take*

as much space as you like just here.

("Live export, eh? Disgusting that.")

- Hours and hours of slow moving traffic. *Honk Honk!*
- And fine company. *Thanks all.*
- A few vocal objectors, but it's good to know you're alive. *Water off a duck's back if you'll pardon the pun.*

Seriously, take a day's leave for this one!



AACT MEMBERS MEETING

Sunday 24 July 2005

Environment Centre
102 Bathurst St Hobart

4.00pm

Come along and hear about what the AACT committee is working on and how you can help to stop animal suffering in Tasmania and beyond!

QUARTERLY HOT TOPIC

1080 on King Island

Yvette Watt

You may have seen some of the news reports on a massive 1080 baiting program that took place on King Island recently, where 16 farmers laid a 115km line of 1080 poison to kill wallabies they allege are in plague proportions. The farmers admit that they are guessing how many wallabies there are, and their 'guesstimates' vary from 200 000 to 500 000. Veterinary pathologist David Obendorf said that, in theory, the amount of 1080 used could have delivered a fatal dose to between 100,000 and 200,000 wallabies. Of

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course, 1080 is indiscriminate and many non-target species would have died as well. 1080 produces a slow, cruel death. Not only will the adult animals die, but pouch young and young at foot will also die slowly of exposure and starvation. It is also no solution to the perceived problem, as the wallaby numbers will quickly build to replace those animals massacred in this appalling baiting program. The solution to King Island's alleged wallaby problem is obvious. Farmers should stop blaming wildlife for the ecological problems they themselves have created, accept the presence of wild populations and, first and foremost, fence their land. Unless farmers look to long-term solutions such as wallaby proof fencing, they will continue to have wallabies and other native herbivores grazing their pastures.

Furthermore, a 'Draft Management Plan' has recently been released which, if approved, would allow a commercial wallaby kill on King Island with the animals meat and fur exported internationally. Along with other groups AACT will be campaigning hard to make sure this does not go ahead. The National Kangaroo Protection Coalition has pledged that if the Federal Government approves commercial wallaby export licenses for the King Island wallabies, they will pursue the matter through the Courts.

AACT's media release on this issue prompted a great deal of media interest, with interviews and stories running on Southern Cross and WIN TV news, ABC radio Country Hour, the Examiner and even a Spanish international news wire service contacting us for a statement. King Island is known for its produce, but we urge you to think twice about buying into King Island cruelty. Write to the Mayor and tell him what you think of the recent massacre and the proposed commercial export licensing:

David Brewster
Cnr Meech and George Streets
Currie, King Island
kicouncil@kingisland.net.au

We also encourage you to make a submission on the draft management plan which is available for comment at:

<http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/invitecomment/king-flinders-wallabies.html>



Fudge the piglet

Emma Haswell

Fudge came to live with us on the 16th April so she has been with us for about 6 weeks. Living with Fudge is like living with a natural anti-depressant !!! Life is always happy and never dull.

I now understand many of the wide range of distinct piggy sounds that make up her vocabulary. My favourite being a very deep grunting sound that is her hello in the morning or if I have been away. She has distinct variations in her voice for such things as put me down, I am hungry, I've lost you!, I am furious, and I'd like to come too.

She settled in very quickly and joined the dog pack with great enthusiasm. She particularly loves to share the dog basket with one of our rescue dogs Minnie. She has learned to sit when asked like a dog and loves cuddles and kisses! Fudge is a great asset to the Ban Sow Stalls campaign here in Tasmania. She has been to Salamanca market, appeared on the news and in the paper, has been on the AACT stand at the Million Paws Walk and been at the Campbell Town Show for 2 days to meet children. She has also done some school visits which were a great success. If you know of a school that might be interested in a visit from Fudge please get in touch with me through AACT.



Fudge will be at Salamanca market on both Sat 4th June and Sat 18th June. If you have some spare time and could come along to distribute leaflets we would love your help. Or we would love you to just drop down to say hi and meet the beautiful Fudge.

Thank you
Emma

QUARTERLY QUOTE

'As long as man continues to be the ruthless destroyer of lower living beings he will never know health or peace. For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other.'

Pythagoras

NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

Ballarat, Victoria

The Ron Wells Puppy Factory is to be closed. It's taken 10 years of hard work and persistence by Victorian animal rights campaigners but finally this cruel factory farm is to be closed. Congratulations!

Devon Meadows, Victoria

MF & C's Family Farm has changed the name of their "cage eggs" to "hencoop" eggs due to the "very negative connotation which may give the consumer the feeling that hens are kept in a cruel environment". They are also part of an association called "Micro-Range farmers" – farmers who are against free-range farming because "the consumer's health comes first." When did fresh air become so toxic?

Hobart, Tasmania

As a direct result of meeting Fudge (and Emma) members from the set of Charlotte's Web (Paramount Pictures has been remaking this classic film in Victoria for the last 6 months) contacted Animals Australia who is now finding homes for 40 Wilbur piglet stars throughout Australia. At last count, AACT members and their friends are giving loving homes to 5 of these little stars (some already not so little!). And Animals Australia is to receive a substantial donation for the SaveBabe campaign. More in the next newsletter ...

... AND AROUND THE GLOBE

United Kingdom

Wal-Mart's UK supermarket chain Asda has announced that it will switch 500,000 hens from battery cages into open barns by 1 May 2005. For the first time each hen will be able to lay its eggs in quiet individual nest boxes within an open barn, the company said. The move means Asda will sell 140 million fewer battery eggs in the next year alone.

ANIMALS AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE AND AGM

15 – 17 October 2005

For the first time ever this is being held in Hobart, Tasmania and being hosted by AACT. Keep in touch with your friendly committee member for further details.



VEGETARIAN RECIPE

Polenta with tomato and balsamic vinegar dressing Ashy's Vegetarian Recipes

1 cup of corn meal
3 cups of water
2 tomatoes
2 dessert spoons of balsamic vinegar
Olive oil
A pinch of dried rosemary
Salt

Mix the corn meal with the water and a little salt and bring to the boil in a small pot. Reduce the heat and simmer for five minutes, stirring continuously. Pour the mixture onto a round tray or plate and spread it until it is about 2 cm thick. Leave to cool and set.

Cut the polenta into four sections and fry in a little olive oil for 3 or 4 minutes each side. Cut the tomatoes into large pieces and, using your fingers, scoop out and discard the seeds. Chop the tomato pieces into small cubes and leave aside.

When the polenta is golden on both sides, lift the pieces out of the pan and lay on plates. Return the pan to the heat and add the tomato. Stir and turn off the heat. Immediately add the balsamic vinegar and rosemary and stir again. Pour the sauce over the polenta.

A few salad leaves make a nice garnish for this dish.



That special journey ...*Edward A Barton*

We know one day a special journey
we shall make,
Along a well-worn path...
that path that everyone must take,
Friends...family...
(and those I've hurt)
stand by that gate,
But ... can I face the animals who also wait?

**ANIMAL FRIENDLY WEBSITES**

AnimalCruelty.Com www.animalcruelty.com

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty

www.shac.net

**International Centre
for Alternatives in Research and Education**

<http://www.icare-worldwide.org>

StopAnimalTests.Com

www.stopanimaltests.com

**Keep an eye on our exciting new WEBSITE
which is currently under construction:**

www.aact.org.au

COMMITTEE MEMBER INFORMATION

Coordinator: Yvette Watt

Deputy Coordinator: Karen Bohmer

Treasurer:: Kiren Couser

Secretary: Suzanne Cass

Membership Secretary: Karen Bohmer

General Committee: Catherine Silcock, Ben Bartl, Maria Merry, Emma Haswell, Liz Hynes.

Newsletter Editor: Craig Quarmby

Website Developer: Karen Bevis

CAMPAIGN COORDINATORS

Live export: Suzanne Cass

Intensive pig farming: Emma Haswell

Duck shooting: Catherine Silcock

***Campaign coordinators are looking for
community volunteers who would like to
become involved in actions. If you are
interested in joining any of the above
campaigns please contact AACT via email or
telephone.***

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