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AACT Now

quarterly news from Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania

May 2007

BATTERY HEN FARMS

Emma Haswell

On Monday 9th April Diana Simpson, Ben Bartl and I visited a southern Tasmanian poultry farm armed with a video camera and still camera. The reason for this visit was that I had been told that 2000 battery hens died over a 4 day period last summer due to them having no water. We felt that we needed to see how the animals were being kept.

On Tuesday the 10th April at 8.30am I reported the cruelty to the RSPCA. The RSPCA failed to act on the complaint until Thursday and we believe there was a leak to the farm and there was enough time for them to remove all evidence of cruelty as the RSPCA says they found no animal welfare issues. We filmed both inside and outside two of the battery hen sheds. What we found was the most shocking sight imaginable. We then took the footage to Stateline for an exclusive story. Airlie Ward used it to create a comprehensive story and interviewed both Ben and myself.

The follow up media has been very good and Nick McKim MHA, using Parliamentary Privilege, later named the farm as being Pitts Poultry.

I provided a copy of the footage to the RSPCA – this has now been sent to a poultry expert. We are waiting to find out if charges will be laid as their legal advice is that they could use our footage to prosecute.

Below is a description of what we found:
On entering the property the smell of manure, ammonia and decomposing bodies was all around us. The bush was littered with the mass graves of thousands of battery hens. The first shed we entered was full of older hens - all had very poor feather coverage. Many were completely bald - not a single feather - in fact, they looked as though they had been prepared for the oven but were still alive.

(continued on page 2)



An overcrowded cage at Pitts Poultry (Photo: Emma Haswell)
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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.



UPCOMING AACTivities

20 May

Million Paws walk

AACT will be having an information stall, please contact us if you are able to volunteer to help man the stall.

26 May, 6pm

Members meeting & vegan potluck dinner

South Hobart Community Hall, Darcy Street

BATTERY HEN FARMS

(continued from page 1)

This shed is about 100m long and is a three tier shed, meaning there were 3 rows of hens stacked on top of each other and 4 aisles of hens. The cages were old and very small measuring 30x40cm and 30x50cm with up to 4 hens per cage. Many were sick and dying, and many more were already dead and lay decomposing in the bottom of the cages. We found hens that were stuck under feeding trays, hens with old breaks to their wings and legs, hens that weighed 600-800grams each they were so emaciated and hens wandering aimlessly in the manure pits with no access to water. The shed floors were littered with carcasses and rotting broken eggs, there was dust and cobwebs thickly covering every surface.

We finished filming and moved to the largest shed. Starting in the manure pit we were filming a pile of dead and rotting hens when suddenly I noticed a tail move. There buried in the corpses with only her tail showing was a live hen. I picked her out of the filthy mess but sadly she died in my arms 5 minutes later.

On entering the shed you are met by thousands and thousands of faces peering at you through

the bars. Your mind is overrun, suddenly you are looking at mass pain and suffering, thousands of animals kept in cramped filthy and inhumane conditions, cruelty on an unimaginable scale.



This shed is modern and about 65 metres long. The cages are 6 tiers high, the top tier being some 15 feet above the ground. It is like being inside an enormous machine filled with thousands and thousands of beating hearts. Death was everywhere. The hens are continually fighting for space and food, they are fighting to escape but there is no where to go. They live in hell for their entire lives. In this shed the overcrowding was disgraceful. Up to 8 hens jammed in a cage and many cages had rotting corpses in the bottom of them, with eggs resting on carcasses.

The feeling of guilt is overwhelming; we are all responsible for their suffering not just the egg producer. The consumer makes choices and creates a demand, a demand for cheap eggs. Battery eggs come in so many foods - in biscuits, cakes, café meals and they are even used in the refining process of many wines. We, the public, have a say in how a hen will spend her life. We need to be brave and open our eyes and hearts to the terrible suffering of animals in factory farms.

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(Thank you so much to Diana Simpson for her outstanding footage. All photographs - Emma Haswell)

Action Alert

Please write to Minister David Llewelyn expressing your concern at the government inaction surrounding this cruelty.

E-mail: david.llewelyn@parliament.tas.gov.au

AACT to employ an Executive Officer!

Recently AACT was extremely fortunate to receive a substantial donation from someone who has admired the work we have done over the years on a shoestring budget and staffed entirely by volunteers. This very generous gift will allow us to employ a full time Executive Officer for an initial period of two years, with the hope that we will be able to make the position an ongoing one, funds permitting. This is extremely exciting news and will make an enormous difference to how much we can do for animals. You should all have received notice of the job advertisement, which was also placed in all local newspapers as well as circulated widely amongst other animal groups around Australia and New Zealand. We are currently being swamped with requests for position descriptions from around Australia. Applications close on May 11 and we will then sort through the applications in order to draw up an interview shortlist. By the next newsletter we should have our new employee settled in and we look forward to introducing them to you.

We are extremely grateful to the donor's great generosity and their support, both moral and financial, of AACT and what we do for animals. This is a huge and very exciting development for AACT which heralds the start of a new era!

SPECIAL TOPICS

SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH DAIRY?

Karen Bevis

When I was pregnant with my first child 6 years ago I began to feel the motherly instinct kick in. It was at this time, working in my herb garden, that I first experienced a feeling of kinship with another mother-to-be. I had disturbed a spider who carried a large white egg, half her size. I felt her fear and her fierce protectiveness, almost as if it was my own. I watched her determination as she struggled with her large burden, getting the egg to the safety of foliage cover. Her protective instincts were strong. The mother "tiger", the urge to protect and nurture our offspring, exists in most species.

What does this have to do with milk do you say? Well cows (goats and sheep) are mothers too! Once they have given birth to their offspring the baby calf is removed, usually within a week, so that humans may have their café latte, yoghurt or cheese to satisfy their taste buds. Living within earshot of a dairy in NSW at the same time I met mother spider, the sounds of the mother cows lowing all day and night when their days old babies have been removed from them is truly traumatic. My heart would ache for their loss every time I heard their deeply distressed cries, an ache amplified by having my own suckling infant at my side. Having my own baby gave me first hand knowledge of the depth of feeling that motherhood brings, whatever your species.

Farmers say that cows only cry for a short time and then get over it. In fact they usually bellow for around three days, not so dissimilar a time frame to the first phase of human grief. Just because you aren't bawling your eyes out every minute of the day a week after the loss of a loved one, doesn't mean you aren't still feeling distressed. Dairy cow husbandry expert, Professor John Webster described the removal of the calf as the "most potentially distressing incident in the life of the dairy cow". Webster points out that "the cow will submit herself to considerable personal discomfort or risk to nourish and protect her calf.

The fate of the calves is varied, but never pleasant. Most of the male calves and some of the females are slaughtered for veal, some as young as 1 week old. They are trucked long distances to saleyards and slaughterhouses, may be kept without food for up to 24 hours, and their tiny bodies sustain injuries, with up to 50% receiving leg injuries en-route. Some

female calves are raised to replace 'spent' members of the herd. Calves are fed milk by bucket, trough or feeding machine, never given access to the soft teats that were their birthright.



Dairy cows are milked for about 10 months after giving birth, rested for 6-8 weeks and then give birth again – having been re-impregnated while still being milked. This gives the maximum amount of milk. So the cycle continues, until the cow fails to get pregnant, doesn't produce enough milk, or becomes ill, in which case she is sent to slaughter. All dairy cows end up at the slaughterhouse. A species that would naturally live 20 + years, has a life expectancy of only 5-6 years in today's dairy. According to Smith Thomas, "High producing cows in commercial dairies rarely last more than three or four lactations. They are fed for maximum milk production and many of them 'break down' or burn out after a few years of milking".

There are many other issues, such as tail docking, de-horning, artificial insemination, induced labour, mastitis, lameness etc. that I won't go into here, that add to the cruelty of the dairy industry. You get the picture? And don't think that goat or sheep milk is an alternative. It is the same story in those industries. You can only get large volumes of milk by creating a new life. Dairying is fraught with abuse.

The milk of all animals is made to nourish their infants, and their infants alone. Humans are the

Volunteer register

Recently, all AACT members should have received a volunteer register in the post. Even if you haven't had a chance to complete it and send it back yet, it's not too late! Even if you can only help out on rare occasions, we'd love you to complete the register and post it back to us. And, of course, if you want to be more active in our fight against animal cruelty then please make sure to complete the register and return it so we know what areas you feel you can help us with.

only species who drink milk beyond infancy, and then it is the milk of another species. This fact alone is enough to make you question the practice of drinking milk. Bizarre when you think about it isn't it? The drinking of milk is embedded deep within our Western culture and so it isn't often questioned, but that doesn't make it right. Cow milk is made to grow baby cows quickly into very large animals. Is it any wonder that feeding human infants on cow milk based formula has been linked to adult obesity. So if the suffering of the cow and her calves isn't enough to make you question your own consumption of dairy, you could also consider the many risks to your own health associated with the consumption of dairy products.

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine in the USA point to dairy products as a possible cause of osteoporosis (yes, it's true!), cardiovascular disease, cancers (ovarian, breast and prostate) and diabetes Type I (childhood onset), in addition to the problems caused by lactose intolerance. I strongly recommend people read The China Study by T Colin Campbell. Campbell is a researcher with a 40 year career. He conducted the famous China Study, a vast epidemiological study, which showed the diseases of modern Western Society are largely caused by environmental factors, in the main, diet. From this, additional research of his own, and scientific studies by other researchers around the world, he put together The China Study book for the layperson to read, which clearly shows the dangers of all animal proteins, including milk, to human health. It is the information that the dairy and meat industry associations don't want you to have access to, and he explains why!

Worried about how you are going to replace milk, cheese, butter, chocolate, ice-cream and yoghurt in your diet? Well, it really isn't that hard once you are committed to do so, and

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there is no need to miss out on the good things in life as there are plenty of yummy alternatives. Dairy products are ubiquitous in processed foods, so you will need to look out for hidden ingredients such as 'whey powder', 'casein' and flavours if you want to avoid all dairy. There are some great vegan sites linked to the AACT website, go to www.aact.org.au/govegan.htm. Due to lack of space here to list alternatives, I am happy to answer any questions members may have on how to replace their favourite dairy item with something more healthy and ethical. Email karen@wild.net.au

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PET SHOP REALITY CHECK!

Kathleen McLaren

Approximately 130,000 dogs and 60,000 cats are killed at Australian pounds every year. There are also at least 20,000 young, healthy greyhounds bred for the Australian greyhound racing industry killed each year. With so many dogs and cats in need of homes there is hardly a pressing need to have pet shops supplying more.

Buying from pet shops encourages people to breed animals for profit. Backyard breeders or 'puppy farms' which supply many pet shops with animals are money making ventures and frequently operate with little consideration for the welfare of the animals. A number of puppy farms exposed in Victoria in recent years have been shut down due to horrendous cruelty and neglect of the animals. Female dogs were

found in appalling conditions, completely spent after a lifetime of continual breeding.

Pet shop owners often place cute puppies or kittens in their windows to attract customers. This tactic encourages impulse buying where the purchaser doesn't think through the issue. Many find out that having a puppy or kitten wasn't as easy or as much fun as they first thought. The novelty wears off and kittens and puppies grow up and lose that cute and fluffy appeal.

So many abandoned and uncared for dogs and cats put a great deal of pressure on shelters and pounds. Animals bought as Christmas presents frequently end up deposited at shelters a few weeks or months later as the reality and responsibility of animal care becomes more apparent. According to shelter and pound operators, while not all animals they end up with are discarded shop bought animals, it is clear that many are.

While there are thousands of loving animals being killed simply because they have no home, buying animals from pet shops makes no sense at all. So if you want a companion animal, save a life and go to the local animal shelter or look into the Greyhound Adoption Program.



CAMPAIGN REPORTS

SOW STALLS

Emma Haswell

Charlottes Web

The Charlotte's Web DVD has been released and has a very special extra feature called 'Where are they now?' The feature is a documentary on some of the Charlotte's pigs, one of which is our Willie from Brightside Farm Sanctuary and AACT ambassador pig. The documentary is a huge win for the pigs as it shows how wonderful and loving and intelligent pigs are. It has interviews from Lyn White from Animals Australia, Pam Ahearn from Edgars Mission who has three Charlotte's Web pigs, my daughter Eliza and myself. The credits show the savebabe.com website which is great for the pigs. If you have not seen this film it is well worth seeing.

Pig Welfare Review (Excerpt from Animals Australia E-update)

On 20 April 2007, the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) - made up of State Ministers responsible for Agriculture and chaired by Federal Agriculture Minister Peter McGauran - met to vote on the Pig 'welfare' Code review recommendations.



Painful surgical mutilations such as teeth clipping are performed on millions of piglets each year

This entire review process has been appalling and as indelibly flawed as these resultant recommendations. What is clear is that the government has prioritized the welfare of this cruel industry rather than addressed its responsibilities to protect the welfare of animals. In August 2006 Animals Australia submitted a 56 page document to relevant government Ministers identifying the failures of every aspect of this review and calling for the review to be aborted. Aside from the numerous 'process' issues what was completely unacceptable was that recommendations such as the continued use of sow stalls and farrowing crates failed to meet the requirements of the Model Code itself, which states at the outset that it must allow pigs the opportunity to display appropriate patterns of behaviour and provide a 'husbandry system appropriate to the physical, health and behavioural needs of pigs.'

Despite overwhelming evidence that this review process has been flawed, it has been allowed to continue. The resultant recommendations are shameful.

Permitting Cruelty...

Every caring Australian should be outraged by the government's duplicity in suggesting that this was ever a review of cruel pig industry practices. The resultant recommendations have ignored international precedents either banning or restricting the use of sow stalls. They have also ignored:

- The recommendations of pre-eminent scientists in this field;
- The views provided by the public during the public consultation period;

- The world's largest producer of pigs, Smithfield Foods (US) (which produces 3 times the number of pigs as does the entire Australian pig industry), which announced it will completely phase out sow stalls within 10 years. This was in response to pressure from major customers such as McDonald's which was in turn responding to consumer pressure;
- The largest Canadian producer of pigs, Maple Leaf Foods Inc, has announced it will completely phase out sow stalls within 10 years (for similar reasons to Smithfield);
- Burger King (following McDonald's' lead in the US) has just announced it will seek to obtain its pork from producers which do not confine sows in sow stalls (20% of all pork by the end of 2007, and increasing thereafter).

The draft Code recommendations will allow more than one million mother pigs to suffer dreadfully over the next decade by being confined, barely able to move, in barren sow stalls. The news for their offspring is no better: more than 50 million piglets will have their teeth and tails clipped without pain relief, and the males may be castrated without pain relief.

The only reason industry operators will not be prosecuted for this terrible animal abuse is because the government permits it within the Pig 'welfare' Code!



GREYHOUND RACING

Kathleen McLaren

Eddie moved into my home in September last year. She is gentle, elegant, affectionate and friendly. A number of neighbours who regularly walk past the front gate are now in the habit of stopping for a brief chat with her.

She spends much of her time in repose (or perhaps she's checking her eyelids for cracks) Ed enjoys walking, especially on the beach where she has fun sniffing, investigating, hurtling along the sand and prancing in the surf.

This delightful, quiet, gentle and affectionate companion is a greyhound and typical of her breed (but individual and special to me!) Her life before being rescued was not a good one. Eddie, like the vast majority of greyhounds, was

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bred for what is, for the most part, the ruthless industry of greyhound racing.



In Australia the greyhound racing industry breed thousands of dogs. The ones fast enough to potentially earn the owners big bucks are kept and trained to race. The ones not up to scratch are disposed of one way or another. The 'lucky' ones are euthanased by a vet. Many will be killed by cheaper and nastier methods. Of the dogs who are at the end of their racing 'career' (age about 5 years) most will be killed or end up in a vivisection laboratory. Greyhounds Australasia claims it is opposed to the supply of greyhounds for vivisection, but they have refused to take action to protect the dogs from this gruesome fate. Around 20000 healthy greyhounds are deliberately killed in Australia every year.

The Australian greyhound racing industry is involved in the promotion and export of dogs to several Asian countries where animal welfare laws are virtually non-existent and there is very little hope of re-homing dogs not wanted for racing.

Tasmanian law requires that greyhounds in training wear a muzzle in public which gives the false impression that the dogs are aggressive and dangerous. Many of the greyhounds with racing potential are put through the process of 'bleeding'. This is where the dog is let loose in an enclosed area with bait such as a possum or a rabbit. Although illegal, the bait is usually live. (Animal welfare laws are inadequate and very poorly policed in this industry as much as in other areas)

Amazingly, Greyhound Racing Tasmania offers a 'puppy bonus' of \$300 to breeders for every litter of pups produced in order to promote the industry. This irresponsible practice only increases the number of 'surplus' dogs to be killed.

Tasmania is the only state in Australia which still allows greyhound hurdle racing. It is generally older, slower dogs who have spent their lives racing on barrier-free racetracks who are then made to race on tracks with concrete barriers placed at intervals. The risk of serious injury and death due to dogs colliding at high speeds with barriers is very real. Generally those involved in the industry don't advertise dog injuries and deaths, however one hurdling greyhound death by brain injury did recently slip through this veil of secrecy. AACT protested against greyhound hurdle races in March of this year. There is a good chance the Tasmanian government will ban this dangerous activity but we need to keep up the pressure.

Action Alert

Please write to the Minister for Racing and Gaming Mr Michael Aird and ask him to put a stop to hurdle racing and the puppy payment.

Michael Aird (MLC)
Minister for Racing and Gaming
c/o Parliament House
Hobart, 7000
Tasmania
E-mail: michael.aird@parliament.tas.gov.au

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DUCK SHOOTING

Chris Simcox

We fought hard this year for the ducks, thinking that with all the available evidence the Minister would be hard pressed not to cancel the season. AACT, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and the RSPCA all met with the Minister in early January to talk about following the lead of all the other states. No other state would have an open season this year. The drought had hit hard again. Major breeding areas were dry. Duck numbers were very low. SA and Victoria cancelled their season. NSW, WA and Qld having ongoing bans.

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year, as it was a condition of the licence that they report. The commercial season licence holders reported taking 95 550 shearwaters.

AACT issued a media release in conjunction with Animals Australia just prior to the start of the 2007 season. The story was picked up by The Mercury, The Advocate and Southern Cross TV. Unfortunately there was some confusion in the Advocate article and AACT asked for matters to be corrected. In particular, it was stated that the season lasted for 5 weeks when the recreational season lasts for only two.

The RSPCA has recently joined the cause and has put out its own brochure. Unfortunately the RSPCA is calling only for greater control and regulation of the season, such as better policing of bag limits, more education and training for 'hunters', increased fines for poachers, and "ultimately a ban of recreational shearwater hunting". They are not calling for the ban immediately.

To find out more about the shearwater issue and how you can voice your protest, go to the AACT website.



THE HUMAN BATTERY CAGE IN TASMANIA

Kathleen McLaren

If you were out and about in late March or early April at the University, Salamanca or in Launceston you may have noticed the unusual sight of several people sitting squashed inside a small cage. The Human Battery Cage was brought to Tasmania as a part of the tour of Australia to highlight the plight of hens trapped in the appalling battery cage system of egg production.

Heather Blyth, Drew Fryer and Shane Dalgleish have been touring Australia with their art installation/performance piece since February of this year. There were plenty of volunteers to fill the cages each day and the HBC received some media coverage and interest from many passers by.

The Human Battery Cage occupants were a lot better off than hens of course in that their stay was temporary and they were able to place the cage in a pleasant location with lots of fresh air and sunshine. Hens are denied both fresh air and sunshine as they are confined inside tiny cages which are stacked in massive rows and

tiers inside dimly lit sheds. The sheds reek of months' worth of accumulated hen excrement and dead and dying hens. This powerful stench causes irritation and often serious damage to the hen's eyes, throat and lungs. The HBC occupants were also lucky enough to be able to sit in the cage without having to bow their heads or have them stick out the top of the cage as does a battery hen. The battery hen has to endure this for her entire life because the cages are too small to accommodate her height.



Many people signed the petition and expressed support for the move to ban the cruel battery cage system. A number of limber volunteers took turns to experience crowded incarceration while for others it was enough just to look to make the decision to choose cruelty free food.

There are clearly many pressing reasons to ban this disgusting and cruel practice. You can help end battery cage egg production by **never** buying the eggs; by writing to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water; by encouraging others to boycott the product; and by informing as many people as you can of the situation.

Contact:
Hon. David Llewellyn
c/o Parliament House
Hobart, 7000
Tasmania
david.llewellyn@parliament.tas.gov.au

For further information, visit the website of the HBC team:
www.humanbattery cage.com

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OTHER AACTIVITIES

TIN SHAKE

Yvette Watt

On February 16th and 17th a bunch of wonderful AACT volunteers braved the Hobart heat to shake a tin to help raise the all important funds that make the work AACT does for animals possible. I would be lying if I said we weren't a little disappointed in the numbers of volunteers, but those who did help us out contributed to us collecting a grand total of (drum roll please) \$4000! The very strange thing is that no one had to top this up for us to get such a round figure. When all the tins were emptied and counted, this is precisely how much was collected!

The annual tin shake is our most important fundraising event of the year, and so every person, and every dollar, counts. However, despite a substantial increase in members. we didn't manage to enlist many more shakers than last year, meaning that our 2007 total was not very much more than our 2006 total. Hopefully we'll be able to convince a few more of you to help us out next year!

Volunteers who help us out on tin shake days are not only important in terms of raising money. They also help expose the work AACT does to members of the public in their thousands, and there are a number of stories from collectors of people who wanted to stop and talk about the work we do for animals.

Because at this stage we don't have anyone to coordinate things for us in the north of the state,

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we were unfortunately not able to organise for the tin-shake to happen outside Hobart, but we are hoping to be able to be able to have people shaking in Launceston next year.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped us out, and especially to Sue Quarmby who staffed the base for the entire two days!

Change in Membership Fees – a reminder

Due to increasing membership numbers, a gradual change in the renewal date will take place. Rather than this being due on the anniversary of a member joining, it will fall due on the 1st of July. This change will be brought in slowly so as not to disadvantage any members. The AACT committee apologises for any inconvenience this may cause.

CRUELTY AT GARDEN ISLAND CREEK

Julie Williamson

When will there be justice for animals at Garden Island Creek?

AACT members and other concerned Tasmanians sought an answer to this question outside the Magistrates Court on Tuesday 17th April with a protest timed to coincide with the latest appearance of multiply-convicted animal cruelty offender, James Turner.

With animal cruelty convictions dating from 1990 and numerous charges currently before the Magistrates Court it is little wonder this case is attracting attention. What is even more extraordinary is that although Turner is currently banned from having more than 20 horses in his care, he recently claimed to have approximately 60 – yet no authority has removed the horses in excess of those allowed. Also, in recent months Turner has failed to appear for court hearings relating to animal cruelty charges making it seemingly impossible for the cases to be progressed.

AACT has been following this case with interest for some time and will be seeking to meet with the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, Steve Kons, to express our concerns. We will let you know of any news in future updates.

Action Alert

You can help by completing and sending the enclosed insert asking Minister Llewellyn to take action to protect the animals at Garden Island Creek.

AACT INFORMATION STALLS

Karen Bohmer

In February AACT held two information stalls. The first one was at the dogs' breakfast in Sandy Bay. This was a day out for all adopted dogs from either the dog's home or the RSPCA to come together. It was wonderful to see that so many of these homeless dogs now have wonderful homes and that they in turn are bringing a lot of joy to their owners.

Our second stall was at the university trade fair. This is held every year during orientation week. It was great to be able to chat to and inform passionate students about animal cruelty issues but on the whole it was disappointing that so many young people did not appear to be interested. Despite this we will back next year, encouraging students to take notice.



BRIGHTSIDE FARM SANCTUARY

Emma Haswell

Fergus

For this newsletter I thought I would write about Fergus. It is always hard to choose one animal as all our sanctuary animals are so special.



Fergus is a Friesian steer and is about a year old now. His mother was a cow on a dairy farm. Every year each dairy cow gives birth to a calf in order for her milk production to be kept at its maximum. See *SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH DAIRY?* on page 3.

Fergus has an unusual story - he was born a month premature and was apparently only knee high which is very small for a Friesian. Rather than kill him immediately which would be the norm the farmer and his wife still removed him from his mother and battled to keep him alive for 4 weeks feeding him by hand. When he was healthy and the size of a new born calf 4 weeks later they decided he could be sent off for

slaughter with the weekly calf delivery! Lucky for Fergus we bought him for \$20 and took him home to Brightside. He is gentle and relaxed in nature and loves a hug. We are lucky to have him in our lives and he will be one of the only Friesian steers to live into old age. If not killed cattle can live into their twenties though not many get the chance.

Injured Birds

If you find sick or injured birds, adults or nestlings, including sparrows and starlings, please call **Irene** on **6265-8988**

MEMBERS MEETING AND VEGAN POTLUCK DINNER

Karen Bohmer

Thanks to all the members who attended our members meeting and vegan potluck dinner on the 17 March. The AACT committee really enjoys meeting and catching up with old and new members.

We will be having another members meeting and vegan potluck dinner on the 26th of May at 6pm in the South Hobart community hall, Darcy St, South Hobart. Please come along, bring a friend or your family (children are welcome) and join us for a fun evening.



NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

Canberra, ACT

A miserable day for Australian Pigs. Friday 20 April saw the model pig code passed by the PIMC. While so much of the world is phasing out sow stalls, Australian pig farmers have been given the green light to incarcerate their sows in tiny crates for at least another 10 years.

(This is yet another sad indictment of the way Australia treats its animals. – Ed)

New South Wales

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is setting up an office in Australia, reported Farmonline in March. It would appear that the Australian livestock industry is watching this move closely ... and with some trepidation.

Canberra, ACT

ACT could become the first state or territory in Australia to ban battery egg production if new laws being drafted by the ACT Greens are adopted.

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... AND AROUND THE GLOBE

New York, USA

Burger King, the world's second largest hamburger chain, has stated that it will begin buying eggs and pork from suppliers that do not confine their animals in cages and crates. The changes were made after discussions with the Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

New Mexico, USA

New Mexico has banned cockfighting on cruelty grounds, leaving Louisiana as the only American state to still allow this abhorrent "sport".

Copenhagen, Denmark

In June 2007 rodeos will take place in Copenhagen for the first time. They will be carried out under the rules of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA), an association that has a very poor track record on animal cruelty.

United Kingdom

More than 500 million battery eggs have been sold to the British public as free-range. The scam, involving eggs from Mainland Europe, has cost consumers an estimated £50 million.



QUARTERLY QUOTE

If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men.

St. Francis of Assisi

COMMITTEE MEMBER INFORMATION

- Co-ordinator: Karen Bohmer
- Deputy co-ordinator: Kathleen McLaren
- Secretary: Angela Ayling
- Treasurer: Yvette Watt
- Membership Secretary: Maria Merry
- General Committee Member: Ben Bartl
- General Committee Member: Julie Williamson
- General Committee Member: Emma Haswell

AACT says Thank You

- *Bio-Distributors* – Ric and Jo for their invaluable sponsorship
- The following Salamanca Markets Stalls for having a permanent AACT collection tin:
 - *100% Fresh Squeezed Juice*
 - *City Organics*
 - *Country Larder*
 - *More than Skin Deep*



- For sponsoring AACT's Ban Sow Stalls advertisements.
- *Jamie McArthur* – prints AACT banners at a discounted price

AACT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION /RENEWAL FORM

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(if paying 1 July to 31 December)
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 Renewal

Please note that the membership period runs from 1 July.
 I would like to make a donation of \$.....
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