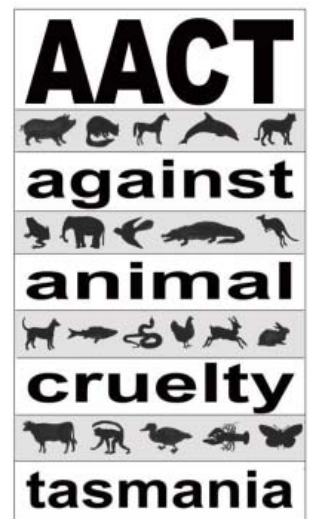


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AACT NOW

quarterly news from Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania

May 2008

PUPPY FARMS

Lin Ashton

Factory Farming has become a disturbing and inhumane part of modern society since its conception early after the 2nd World War. Today we now see the same principles being used to breed pups on what are called "Puppy Farms" or, in the USA, "Puppy Mills".

Australia has the highest rate of pet ownership in the world, with two thirds of all households owning pets. Most people who have pets form an emotional bond with them which remains for the animal's entire life. Dogs in particular are loyal, trusting companions which deserve to be treated with love and respect.

Pet shops have been selling tiny puppies in their windows for decades, but today the million dollar industry has much to hide from the public. Pet shops sell numerous "companion" animals with dogs being their best sellers. However there is a huge ignorance within communities about how these animals arrived in the pet shop windows. Impulse buying of puppies is in fact a clever marketing strategy resulting in shops regularly receiving shipments from interstate of numerous designer dogs. In some recent cases puppies have been sent to Asian shops and markets to await their fate.

Unfortunately Pet Shops operate within a supply and demand scenario. A campaign that has been running in Australia called "Say no to animals in pet shops" claims there is a link between the huge number of dogs euthanized each year (160,000 in shelters alone) and the sale of dogs in shops. Frequently buyers of puppies haven't considered the financial cost of

owning a puppy or the time factor which is necessary in order to exercise, train and keep the animal healthy and happy. Impulse buying often results in animals being presented to shelters for re-location - Christmas time being a notorious time of the year for this to occur. It seems the sale of puppies in pet shops has in fact created the market for puppy farms as constant litters of puppies are being bred.

Typically these farms usually house between 200 and 300 female dogs and about 50 male dogs. As the farms run on minimum expenditure and maximum profits, the living conditions are frequently horrendous. Row upon row of concrete floors and wire cages without appropriate bedding are the animals' typical living space. Exercise is non-existent, and socialization with other dogs and interactions with humans isn't deemed important. As with animals within factory farming situations, this industry is entirely profit driven, and the health and welfare of dogs isn't considered. They receive no stimulation, love or care.

In order to keep costs down dogs may be fed only every second day, so as with sows, female dogs are malnourished and susceptible to numerous diseases. Female dogs may have up to three litters of pups per year so it is almost impossible for the dog's body to recover after each litter. Her only purpose is to breed and she suffers exhaustion and repetitively paces her tiny bleak cage with the misery of her life shown in her sad down cast eyes. Over 90% of breeders shoot their dogs when their productive life is over.

Female pups are mated when they have their first season at four to six months of age.

encouraging and supporting cruelty free living

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 education, liaising with Government and industry and non-violent action.



UPCOMING AACTivities

18 May

RSPCA Million Paws Walk (Launceston)

This year AACT will be having an information stall at the Launceston Million Paws Walk. We still need more volunteers to help with the stall. Please contact the AACT office if you are able to lend a hand 6234 6229

5 June

World Environment Day

This year's celebration of World Environment Day will be held in Franklin Square. We are seeking volunteers to assist us with this event. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact the AACT office on 6234 6229

Ongoing

Salamanca Markets Stall

The Greens Tasmania has very generously given AACT a fortnightly table at their Salamanca stall. This offers AACT the opportunity to regularly promote campaigns and to educate the public. This stall can only run if we have enough volunteers. If you are able to help us out, even for an hour or so, it would be greatly appreciated! To register to volunteer at this or any other event, please contact the AACT office on 6234 6229.

For information on other Up-and-Coming AACT events, please check the 'What's On' section of our website at www.AACT.org.au or contact the AACT office on: 6234 6229.



PUPPY FARMS

(continued from page 1)

Weaning takes place at four to five weeks when it should occur at twelve weeks. Breeders don't bother with any health checks of animals, so often genetic problems occur when different breeds are mated. Problems with eye-sight, heart and joints are common, resulting in animals having health problems for their entire life time. This type of irresponsible breeding results in so called designer dogs. Some pet shops no longer sell puppies but rather advertise homeless shelter dogs in their stores as a community service to the general public. Unfortunately these shops are rare.

Puppies sold from pet shops are not required to be de-sexed prior to being sold. Puppies may be vaccinated and micro-chipped but it isn't a requirement to have the history of both parent dogs, and as regulations for pet shops differ from state to state it becomes hard to enforce any uniform practices.

The dogs' homes and RSPCA shelters found in each state become home for thousands of unwanted dogs each year while they wait for a safe and caring environment. All shelter dogs are micro-chipped, de-sexed, vet checked and temperament tested before they can be adopted.

Animal activists have been instrumental in closing down two of the largest puppy farms in Australia over the past ten years using constant surveillance and reports to the RSPCA, local council and police. The public must become more educated about this inhumane industry. We must endeavor to work towards ending this cruel puppy farm trade. Millions of dogs are depending on us.



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SPECIAL TOPIC

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE HUMANE SHOOTING OF KANGAROOS AND WALLABIES AND THE SPURIOUS ARGUMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL 'HARVESTING'

Patti Cosgrove

1. Cruelty:

The Draft National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies shames the Australian government, as it codifies and condones acts of gross animal cruelty.

It is unbelievable that the ministerial working group appointed 4 years ago to review the code has rejected all 14 recommendations for change put forward by RSPCA Australia, in response to the code's failure to prevent animal cruelty.

Because of the cruelty issues rampant in the kangaroo killing industry, all current wildlife trade management plans should be immediately revoked. A humane kangaroo killing industry is NOT possible:

a. The barbaric treatment of 'in pouch' and 'at foot' joeys:

In Section 6. of the Draft Code, titled "Euthanasing Pouch Young and Young at Foot" 'acceptable' killing methods are outlined. NONE of these methods are 'acceptable' but instead render a protracted and grotesquely cruel death and would be illegal in respect of killing any other species of animal in Australia.

This condoned 'by catch' killing has been compared to the slaughter of baby harp seals in Canada - as Australia and Canada are the only two countries in the world which slaughter the young of their wildlife.

Citing Queensland Country Life, April 10, 2008 which quotes Pat O'Brien, Wildlife Protection Association of Australia (WPAA): "The prescribed method of killing in pouch and out of pouch joeys is to bludgeon them over the head with a heavy object. Unlike a calibrated abattoir gun, there is no guarantee that the first blow will be the final one. When it comes to crushing the skull of a joey, whose craniums are known to be thicker than those of other species at the same age, the force required depends on age, and hence the quickness of death is in the hands of a shooter who already is worn out from shooting all night."

Reprinted from "Facts about the kangaroo Industry" (<http://www.kangaroo-protection-coalition.com>): 'The annual quota does not take into account the cruel killing of the estimated millions of orphaned joeys which die each year.'

b. the statistics on the huge number of kangaroos shot and injured in the darkness, left to die an agonising death in the bush (RSPCA estimate is >100,000 each year)

c. because kangaroos are shot at night, there is no guarantee that even an eventually lethal shot will be instantaneous, as the wrong part of the head may sustain the damage.

The following was also reported in Queensland Country Life, April 10, 2008: 'The WPAA also claims that shooters are chopping the heads off kangaroos to disguise those that are inhumanely shot.' Quoting Pat O'Brien, WPAA: "Scattered around the countryside are hundreds of thousands of kangaroo heads which have been chopped off by shooters. If there was a shot to the jaw of a kangaroo and it was seen to have suffered, theoretically under the licensing laws of the Kangaroo Management Plan, that shooter would not receive an income for the carcass, and would potentially be fined for breaches of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Every kangaroo's head is now chopped off before being put into the commercial chiller so as to bypass potential prosecution under the state cruelty laws."

2. Threats to Kangaroo and Wallaby Survival

Quoting from the Animals Australia paper, titled Animals and the National State of the Environment Report, page 2, in response to the 2006 State of the Environment report:

'Habitat Destruction: Indicator LD-03 - Change in extent and proportion of woody vegetation, clearing and regrowth, citing the latest satellite data, suggests that around 17 million ha of woody vegetation were cleared continent-wide between 1972 and 2004. Of this, one and a half million hectares were cleared between 2000 and 2004.

Indicator BD-08 - Estimated loss of biodiversity resulting from land clearing uses WWF estimates, which suggest that the number of animals killed by clearing of forest in Queensland is about 2,200 native vertebrate

mammals, birds and reptiles per hectare.' Estimates for other State and Territories do not exist.

Add to the ongoing onslaught on habitat and declining kangaroo populations the following:

- the associated 'pest' control programs aimed at the eradication of any survivors of land clearance, most notoriously the continued use of 1080 on native animals in Tasmania,
- the effects of commercial 'harvesting' Australia wide. Two species of Australian wallabies are decimated in Tasmania, as part of the national Australian kill 'quota'
- bloodsport killing of kangaroos and wallabies, including the vile practice of 'coursing', which is still legal in Tasmania (but in no other state)
- road kill, fence kills and illegal kills
- bushfires
- the protracted drought Australia is experiencing, and
- the unknown effects of climate change.

Summing up:

Reprinted from "Facts about the kangaroo Industry"

(<http://www.kangaroo-protection-coalition.com>): The killing of kangaroos is the largest terrestrial wildlife slaughter in the world. 2003 saw the highest quota ever set at 6.9 million. The quota is set at 15% of estimated grey kangaroo numbers, and 17% to 20% of estimated red kangaroo numbers. In spite of crashing kangaroo numbers in every State, the quotas for 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 were set at the same percentage of the estimated reduced population.

3. Myths Regarding Kangaroos & Wallabies

Reproduced below is information posted on the SaveTheKangaroos website <<http://savethekangaroo.com>> from the paper: Under Fire - A Viva! Report on The Killing of Kangaroos for Meat and Skin by Juliet Gellatley BSc (Zoology), Director of Viva!, published 2006:

Kangaroos Are Not "Wheat Pests"

"Kangaroos no longer exist in wheat areas as they have long since been killed off." (Australian Wildlife Protection Council).

A four year study of Grey Kangaroos in Western Australia by CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation) found that 95 per cent of wheat crops are never visited by

kangaroos. Also few kangaroos wander more than 400 metres from their home range in the bush. The study found that kangaroos have virtually no impact on the country's crops, despite claims by farmers that they are a major crop pest and further the study recommended that farmers who have natural bush land on their property encourage its growth to help keep the kangaroos fed.

Dr Graham Arnold, former senior principle research scientist, CSIRO, Division of Wildlife and Ecology, who studied the impact of kangaroos on croplands, stated in 1998:

"Most kangaroos did not like to eat farm crops and would only thrive if given access to their natural foods. Unless the community manages remnant vegetation to minimise degradation and enhance the regeneration of native plants, kangaroos and some other native species will disappear from much of Western Australia over the next 100 years." He also said, "All the land cleared for farming in Western Australia was habitat for one or more species of kangaroos, wallabies and their relatives. Today, five species are extinct throughout the wheatbelt and four species are found only in a few locations."

Furthermore, a study of the kangaroo killing zones quickly reveals that kangaroos are largely commercially shot in areas where they are NOT seen as a problem to crop growers. Instead, commercial killing takes place in regions of extensive grazing. These areas produce almost no crops and account for only 10 per cent of Australia's meat production. Dr Arnold states, "Due to the marginal nature of these areas [where kangaroos are killed commercially for meat and skin], stocking rates of [sheep or cattle] are traditionally very low. Properties need to be enormous. Indeed, publicity given to property owners in these areas in the outback show that the kangaroo, even if in large numbers, could only be placed very low on a long list of environmental and economic factors effecting their livelihood."

Yet farmers and the Australian Government regularly refer to kangaroos as pests. Dr Arnold responds, "*Pests* is an emotive word. It conjures up visions of animals destroying crops. I can think of no situations where this is likely to be true for kangaroos."

Kangaroos Do Not Compete With Sheep and Cattle

The second main reason given for slaughtering kangaroos is that they compete for resources with cattle and sheep. A six year study by Dr Steven McLeod at the University of New South

Wales (3) is the most comprehensive of its type and thoroughly examines whether the presence of Red Kangaroos negatively impacts on sheep. When I gave interviews in Australia on the kangaroo trade, the industry's, farmers', politicians' and some journalists' most favourite excuse for the killing was that kangaroos would eat sheep out of house and home if left to their own devices. According to Dr McLeod some studies previous to his have suggested that kangaroos and sheep compete for food, but none have been conclusive. His study is the first to examine this hypothesis properly. In a nutshell, he finds that, "There was no evidence of a competitive effect of red kangaroos on sheep."

This was true even in drought conditions. In the winter of 1991 when the study region was officially declared as drought stricken by the Government of NSW, the study found no competition for food between sheep and Red Kangaroos. The study concluded that Red Kangaroos do not affect the body mass, wool growth, reproductive output of sheep or the growth and survivorship of lambs. In fact, it was found that Red Kangaroos "consistently avoid areas used by sheep" and that sheep have a negative impact on kangaroos.

Further, Ingrid White who was awarded the Australian Post-Graduate Award for her PhD, started field research for her thesis, *Spatio-temporal interaction of mammalian herbivores in the arid zone*, in 1994 at UNSW Arid Zone Research Station Fowlers gap, Broken Hill. She states, "Like several other researchers before me, working in the same study area located on a commercial sheep station in the outback of New South Wales and working under real conditions, in real paddocks and with real stocking rates, I found little evidence for detrimental effects of kangaroo on the domestic sheep or vegetation. And this despite the kangaroos not having been culled as a 'pest' species for more than 30 years, and the kangaroos equalling or surpassing the numbers of sheep stocked on the station."

Since kangaroos and wallabies are native Australian animals they have grazing rights too. If land clearance were abated, responsible management and regeneration of remnant native vegetation were undertaken to provide food for kangaroos, kangaroo fencing implemented and a system of wildlife corridors established connecting tracts of kangaroo habitat, then claims such as grazing competition, however minimal, would not arise.

Humane kangaroo and wallaby management is a 21st century issue and has to be approached ethically and with the aim of long term improvement in relations between farmers and pastoralists and these unique native animals.



COORDINATORS REPORT

Julie Williamson

As you can see by the list of events over the last 3 months the pace at AACT has been fast forward and there are no signs of this letting up. All these AACTions and events could not be possible without a dedicated group of volunteers and I would like to thank not only the Committee members who work so hard to ensure the load is shared, but also our members who we can always depend on to attend events. I make special mention of the 'usual suspects', Patti, Melegueta and Lin who you may well by now recognise from news coverage of our events.

Other members also help out in a multitude of ways and I would like to thank Kiran for her wonderful catering of food and goods for the recent duck protest at Moulting Lagoon and those who sponsor and donate regularly to help AACT continue our work. Thanks also to our Committee members, Campaign coordinators and Executive Officer who always give so freely of their time and go to great expense to travel to meetings and events.

The Committee has much work to do also with determining the ongoing direction and operations of AACT. At a facilitated session on 19th April the Committee discussed fundamental basics of our philosophies and positions. We are due to meet again in coming weeks to focus on how to make the most of our limited resources and translate these into actions that will have the greatest effect for raising awareness about improving conditions for animals in our society.

I look forward to the coming months. It will yet again be a busy period, but with the support of the Committee and our members we can work together to make a difference!

**Discovered an injured or orphaned
native animal?**

Call 6233-6556 (9am – 5pm) or 0418-125-609 to contact a qualified carer.

CAMPAIGN REPORTS

BATTERY HEN FARMS

Emma Haswell/ Julie Williamson

On February 28th 2008 AACT members Emma Haswell and Chris Simcox entered Pitts Poultry following advice that the farm was ending operation. On entering the farm Emma and Chris quickly discovered pits filled with thousands of dead hens and realised a 'depopulation' of the farm was in progress. But not all hens were dead. At the free range shed a sick hen was found in a skip bin walking on the carcasses of her dead companions. The hen was unable to escape as a sheet of mesh covered the corpse filled bin and she had to be freed by Chris and Emma.

Next to the shed a dying featherless hen was found amongst other dead hens slowly peddling her legs. The footage taken of Emma with this hen was subsequently shown on ABC Stateline on Friday 29th February.

Despite assurance from the Department of Primary Industries, little appeared to have changed in the battery hen shed, with dead hens found in cages with carcasses that were in various stages of decay.



Sick hens were taken to Hobart veterinarian, Dr James Harris, who again remarked on the poor condition of the hens, stating that the hens had empty crops, were emaciated and weighed 600

grams when they should have weighed 2.5 kilograms.

Despite interviews and statements made by Emma over the following days, comments made by representatives of DPIW, Government, the Australian Egg Corporation and the farm owner questioned the veracity of the footage taken - although a Pitt's Poultry vehicle including the number plate and sheds were clearly evident in the film. The General Manager of Biosecurity & Product Integrity, Alex Schaap, was even reported as citing Pitt's as a model farm and on ABC radio advised of Pitt's: 'the husbandry of those birds is as good as, if not better than, most operations around Australia and so we do not believe animal welfare is an issue'. In response, Emma, Chris and a third AACT member involved in the Pitt's visit, Julie Williamson, completed statutory declarations attesting that the footage was genuine and these were presented to Minister Llewellyn and Alex Schaap with copies of the unedited footage. Copies have also been sent to the Shadow Minister for Primary Industries, Sue Napier.

Given the extent of comments made by those wishing to discredit the veracity of the footage, AACT went to the unprecedented extent of publishing Emma's Statutory Declaration in a quarter page advertisement in The Mercury and also urged the public to join in the call for an independent review of the Government's management of the egg industry in Tasmania. We are thankful to the donor who provided funding to make this advertisement possible.

On Thursday 13th March, a meeting was held with the Minister regarding his position on the battery hen issue and in particular to confirm the veracity of the footage taken. We expressed our concerns that the Department's advice of the condition of hens at Pitt's Poultry was in contradiction to those witnessed by Emma and Chris just one day after a visit by a DPIW Veterinary Officer to the farm.

In a follow up visit to the Minister on Tuesday 29th April, the Minister advised that he still cannot reconcile the contradiction in Departmental advice on the condition of hens to that depicted in the footage taken. We currently await a formal response to questions put to the Minister in our initial meeting and expect correspondence from his office in coming days.

The support from the public has been overwhelming for this campaign and the actions taken. We thank everyone for the messages of

encouraging and supporting cruelty free living

support. You can still help by writing to the Minister for Primary Industries and expressing your concern over the Department's handling of the Pitt's Poultry issue and your opposition to battery hen farming. Write to: The Minister for Primary Industries & Water, The Hon. David Llewellyn, c/o Parliament House, HOBART TAS 7000.

The Ban Battery Hen petition is also receiving strong support with a total of 15,000 signatures gathered so far. If you can help with gaining more, or know of a business or workplace that can collect signatures please download the petition from our website: www.aact.org.au.



DUCK SHOOTING

Chris Simcox

2008 was always going to be a big year for this campaign. As happened in 2007, both Victoria and South Australia cancelled their duck seasons this year (while other states have ongoing bans). And as happened last year, the Tasmanian government planned this year to subject native ducks to three months of shooting, while all waterbirds were struggling to rear their young in difficult conditions. We had a fight on our hands.



There was plenty of positive media coverage in the lead up to the season, in fact it was the most media this campaign has probably ever seen. We tried many different tactics to entice the Minister to see things our way. Unfortunately the solid scientific arguments were not enough to convince a Minister, determined to give shooters a season, to change his mind. He was more interested in maintaining his narrow-minded view of

proceedings, than embracing a broad perspective of the issues.

So the opening of the season arrived on March 8. Around sixty Tasmanian and Victorian rescuers assembled on the shores of Moulting Lagoon in the early, dark, cold hours of that first morning of the season. A very colourful assemblage it was, and one full of enthusiasm and anticipation. We were dispersed across the lagoon by the time shooting was allowed to commence at one hour before sunrise. Yes, it is dark at that time, and how anyone can see clearly enough to properly identify a particular species of bird in that light is beyond reckoning. We waited.

On that first morning of the 2008 duck shooting season we witnessed exactly what we had been telling the Minister for many months before the season opened. The ducks were so few as to be extremely difficult to find. In the first few hours, when normally there would be hundreds flying over, we counted in ones and twos. It was very quiet and very haunting. For those of us who had seen previous openings this was unprecedented and disturbing. We knew there weren't many ducks but never imagined it to be like this. The rest of the weekend was much the same, and the shooters agreed. Many of them were going home early. Good for the ducks and yet not so good for the ducks.



Reports from around the State have been similar. Few ducks and little shooting. This has been the story of the season up to this point. We asked the Minister to end the season immediately, on the basis of the evidence we saw, and we have kept harassing him ever since. The season is more than half gone and we are still asking for an end to the shooting.

The Minister is about to make an announcement about when the season will close. We need to get people writing letters

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and sending emails asking for an immediate cessation. Please take a few minutes of your time to help our beleaguered native ducks. Write to the Minister (see details below) and to your local newspaper, and do it today.

Write to:
Hon David Llewellyn
Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Energy
Parliament House
Hobart 7000
david.llewellyn@parliament.tas.gov.au

Do it for the ducks,
Chris Simcox
Native Waterbird Campaign Coordinator
www.aact.org.au/ducks.htm



“MUTTONBIRDS” - LICENCED TO KILL

Julie Williamson

This year AACT again sought to raise awareness of the cruelty of the muttonbird open seasons. Our campaign, dubbed ‘Licenced to Kill’ saw our Executive Officer, Jenn, and I apply for muttonbird recreational season licences at Service Tasmania to highlight the ease of obtaining a licence and the lack of information and training given to licence holders, who are then expected to ‘humanely’ kill Short-tailed Shearwater (muttonbird) chicks.

The current recreational licence provisions allow anyone aged from 16 years and over to obtain a licence by paying a \$25 fee (\$20 for concession cardholders). Applicants are then given a 3 step written instruction on how to cervically dislocate a chick. The instruction reads:

Hold the bird by the feet, head down, in the right hand.

Place the index and middle fingers of the left hand in the form of a V immediately behind the bird’s skull.

Finally turn the bird’s head upwards and away.

There are no tests involved and no requirement for applicants to demonstrate any knowledge or skill in being able to humanely kill Short-tailed Shearwater chicks and it is unimaginable how anyone can expect chicks to be humanely killed with these written instructions.

But as we found out even obtaining the instructions isn’t always assured. Although I

was issued with the information sheet Jenn was not and, even after questioning if any instructions would be given, still came away without any idea of what was expected as someone licenced to kill a muttonbird.

Our concerns regarding the high risk of cruelty to chicks during the recreational season were addressed in a meeting with a representative from the Wildlife Management Branch. We were advised that the current system of licence holders being issued with a written instruction had been referred to the Department of Primary Industries & Water’s Animal Welfare Branch for consideration. We await the outcome of this assessment with interest.

In the 2007 recreational muttonbird open season 66,476 chicks were reported as being killed by 1168 licence holders during the 16 day season. A further 90,000 chicks were killed during the commercial season. The commercial season normally operates from 27 March to 30 April each year, but this year a one week extension was granted by the Minister for Primary Industries & Water, David Llewellyn, following a request from the Aboriginal Lands Council due to a later breeding season. The commercial season therefore ended on 7th May 2008.



Photograph courtesy of Graeme Burgan

Tasmania is the only State in Australia that allows the hunting of the Short-tailed Shearwater. The birds are protected in other States of Australia, with significant fines for offenders. Because it is a migratory bird, it is also the subject of a joint protection project between Japan and Australia - the Japan Australia Migratory Birds Agreement. The Agreement does however allow for the hunting of Shearwaters in specific circumstances.

Short-tailed Shearwaters migrate approximately 15,000 kilometres from the Northern

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Hemisphere to Southeastern Australia to breed and raise chicks each year. They raise only one chick a year and it is truly shameful that Tasmania ensures that over 150,000 of these chicks are killed each year.

AACT is continuing to seek an end to the recreational muttonbird season and have jointly signed a letter with RSPCA Tasmania, Tasmanian Conservation Trust and Wildlife Tasmania calling for the Minister to enact an immediate ban. We will update you on any news on this campaign in future newsletters.

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RECENT AACTIVITIES

AACT HAPPENINGS

Jenn Beer

AACT has been very busy, as usual.

Dairy

On Wednesday February 20, a number of Southern AACT members travelled to Launceston to join their fellow Northern AACTivists and members of Animal Liberation NSW (ALNSW) in a protest outside of the Grand Chancellor Hotel where the National Dairy Conference was being held.

The protest was against the dairy industry as a whole, in particular, the cruel and inhumane way in which bobby calves are treated. ALNSW drove their education van down and we were able to show footage (caught on a hidden

camera) that exposed the extreme cruelty that bobby calves are subject to from the time they are unloaded at the slaughter house until they are finally slaughtered.



A number of activists also entered the conference, during morning tea break, and handed out flyers prepared by ALNSW. The protest was very successful and we managed to cause quite an upset amongst Conference attendees as well as handing out a large number of flyers and Bobby Calf DVDs. A big thank you to everyone who was involved in this event! Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the Bobby Calf DVD can contact the AACT office: 6234 6229

Battery Hens

On Thursday February 21st, AACT protesters joined Hobart City Alderman Bill Harvey on the steps of Hobart Town Hall to support Bill in his call for all future Taste of Tasmania Festival stall holders to use free range eggs. We can only hope that Bill's call is accepted.

On Thursday 28th February two AACT members entered Pitts Poultry and filmed dead and dying hens and revealing pits full of thousands of dead hens during the total depopulation of layer hens.

March 7th saw AACT members presenting footage and statutory declarations regarding what they had witnessed at Pitts Poultry to the General Manager Biosecurity & Product Integrity (DPIW), Alex Schaap, and Minister Llewellyn following questions regarding the veracity of the footage.

On Tuesday March the 11th, on Parliament Lawns, members of AACT showed the footage taken at Pitts Poultry and highlighted our concerns for the lack of action taken by the Department. Liberal Shadow Minister for

encouraging and supporting cruelty free living

Primary Industries, Sue Napier, and Tasmanian Greens' Nick McKim took the opportunity of a break in Parliament to view the footage.

April 9th marked the one year anniversary of the exposure of Pitt's Poultry in 2007 by members Emma Haswell and Ben Bartl. The day was marked with an event on Parliament House lawns dubbed 'One year on and still no answers for hens'. AACT members sat in 'battery person' cages to commemorate the continued suffering of battery hens. A passing primary school group joined in the event all taking the opportunity to sit in a cage and learn about the plight of layer hens.

Raffle

AACT held its first ever raffle this year which was drawn on Friday the 22nd of February. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and also to the generous prizes donated to AACT by: Bruny Island Charter Eco Cruise, Adventure Bay Holliday Village, City Organics, Yvette Watt and Artists Jo Sculthop and April Bromfield.

Vegan Pot Luck Lunch for DUCKS

A very successful AACT Vegan Pot Luck Lunch was held on Sunday the 2nd of March. The aim of this event was the making of kites and decorating of decoy ducks to be used by duck rescuers attending the open weekend of the Tasmanian duck shooting season. The resulting kites and beautifully decorated ducks were greatly appreciated! Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. The array of vegan food was wonderful and a good time was had by all.

Duck shooting

March the 8th signified the opening weekend for the Tasmanian Duck shooting season. Approximately 60 duck rescuers, from Victoria and Tasmania, assembled together on the very dark and cold shores of Moulting Lagoon. These very brave and enthusiastic souls then dispersed across the lagoon to do their best to scare off any ducks. A very warm thank you to all involved.

On Tuesday March the 11th AACT invited Minister Llewellyn to dine on a freshly prepared dish provided courtesy of volunteer rescuers who attended the opening of the duck season at Moulting Lagoon. The meal served was a casualty of the open weekend for duck shooting. The dead duck was retrieved by duck rescuers who then tried to return it to the shooter. Unfortunately, the shooter was not willing to take the duck from rescuers, so it was decided that it would not be wasted, but would be presented to the Minister. Unfortunately the

Minister was not available, and Mr Kons was not prepared to accept the duck on the Minister's behalf.

Short-tailed shearwaters

On March the 28th, two members of AACT gained licenses to kill. The members presented themselves at Service Tasmania and asked for the necessary license that was required to permit them to kill muttonbirds. Both Activists handed over their \$25, but only one of them received any instructions on how to kill birds. The other AACTivist was only given a copy of the Game Tracks magazine and told that everything she needed to know was in the magazine (which it was not!).

Mulesing

A mulesing forum was held in Campbell Town on April 4 and was attended by 2 AACT members. The forum: 'Mulesing 2010 – What is the future', was organised by the TFGA and was presented by wool industry reps and wool brokers. Little mention was actually made about the mulesing alternatives available to Tasmanian wool producers, however many farmers present did express strong concerns about whether the mulesing alternatives they decided on would be accepted by animal welfare groups. Clips (4 biodegradable plastic clips placed around the sheep's breech area) were briefly discussed as one alternative to mulesing, but some farmers stated that they were ineffective as they tended to fall off. A number of farmers were concerned that clips were still considered to be a form of non-surgical mulesing by animal activists and that they were not prepared to use them.

New AACT Office

AACT held an office warming party at the new office (Level2, 191 Liverpool Street Hobart) on Sunday April 13. Yes, we have finally moved to a bigger and brighter building. AACT now has its office at Level 2, 191 Liverpool Street, a space that we share with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and Sustainable Living.

Earth Day

AACT joined the International celebration of Earth Day on Tuesday the 22nd of April by holding a cruelty-free BBQ in Franklin Square. The aim of the event was to encourage people to think about the impact that consuming animal products has on the environment and to encourage them to change to a plant-based diet. AACT chefs slaved over a hot BBQ, serving up delicious Sanitarium vegetarian sausages and Not Meat Burgers. To all vegans, be aware that some Sanitarium products (such

encouraging and supporting cruelty free living

as the Not Meat Burgers) contain milk as flavouring.



AACT BILLBOARD

Kathleen McLaren

AACT have had a billboard up around Hobart during the months of October, December and January. The billboard has a picture of a sow in a tiny stall and hens in battery cages and carries the message 'Think before you buy'. The aim is to highlight the horrors of the intensive farming industry. The billboard will be moved to different locations around the state throughout the year. It's hoped that this image will continue to challenge people to think more carefully about the food products they buy and eat.

Thank you to Justy Phillips, Yvette Watt and Janelle Ihlw who all contributed to the graphic work on this confronting billboard, and to Brightside Farm Sanctuary for photographs. Many thanks also to Ric and Jo Easton who generously provided the funding for this project.

There has been a very good response to AACT's billboard:

'THIS IS TASMANIAN FACTORY FARMING...THINK BEFORE YOU BUY'

It has been displayed in two different locations in Hobart and also in the north of the state next to the Midlands Highway at Devon Hills. The Tasmanian Farmer's and Graziers Association (TFGA) complained about it to the owner of the billboard company, so it has been effective!

The image is uncompromising in its depiction of the horrendous conditions that millions of animals endure in the name of 'farming' in Tasmania and other parts of the globe.

We would like to keep showing this billboard in different locations around the state in order to keep the issue in the open. At a rental cost of between \$450 and \$650 per month it is very good value in terms of exposure to a great number of people.

We have an Adopt-a-Billboard plan that we hope you can help support. If you can help us out with an amount towards the cost of this great publicity, please contact us at AACT. Also, if you have any suggestions about good billboard sites we would certainly be interested to know them. This is a very direct and powerful way you can help to make a difference for the animals.

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*

State
CINEMA

For sponsoring AACT's Ban Sow Stalls advertisements.

- *Jamie McArthur* – prints AACT banners at a discounted price

QUARTERLY QUOTE

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

Anonymous

VEGAN RECIPE

Velvet Red Lentil Soup

Georgia Easton

Dairy Free, Gluten Free

2 yellow onions, diced
2 cups red lentils - rinsed
6 cups water
2-3 vegetable stock cubes
1 tablespoon black peppercorns
1 tablespoon olive oil
salt to taste

Sautee the onions in oil in a saucepan. When the onions are done, add the stock cubes, water, peppercorns, salt, and lentils. Cover and cook until lentils are soft. Then ladle the soup into a blender or food processor and puree until smooth. This will give the soup its velvety texture. Serve hot.

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BOOK REVIEW

Kathleen McLaren

Committed: A Rabble-rouser's Memoir by Dan Mathews

"If you read only one book this year (like me) this is it.' Tommy Lee

"Hilarious! Reads like James Bond on acid, with freaky costumes, police chases, jet set intrigue, and a kickass sense of justice." Pink

It's not often you get to laugh out loud when reading on the topic of animal rights. Dan Mathews book *Committed: A Rabble-Rouser's Memoir* is very funny, engaging and immensely enjoyable read. It is a look at the life of one of the more influential and exuberant figures currently in the animal advocacy movement. Mathews relates stories from his youth as a bullied school boy to his most recent position as vice president of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)

Mathew's CV includes a stint as a giant carrot, a burger flipper in MacDonaldis, a dancing tree in Disneyland, model and actor in Italy plus various roles in PETA.

Mathews stated "...the flair you bring to a protest is as important as the issues themselves - if you want to reach beyond the small core of whoever might care about an issue and lure in the voyeuristic masses. Embracing this sad fact is what sets PETA apart from most other pressure groups." Whether or not you agree with his views, *Committed* is highly recommended reading for anyone interested in animal advocacy. It is also a perfect book to give to the friends or family members who protest "I don't want to know!" or "It might upset me!" when asked to read or ponder on the topic.

Brightside Farm Sanctuary

Rescuing farm animals and running a farm sanctuary takes time, co-ordination and finances. Brightside is self-funded and relies on the generosity of people with both donations and time to allow us to continue our work for animals. This year has been particularly difficult with the huge increase in grain and hay prices due to the drought.

With your support we can continue to help needy animals, and educate and campaign to improve the lives of farm animals.

Please consider supporting us through a donation of time or money, or through our sponsoring programme. Visit us at www.brightside.org.au or phone us on 0408-658-356.

