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# AACT Now

## quarterly news from Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania

October 2007

### ANIMAL JUSTICE FUND

Julie Williamson

This has been an incredible year for AACT with high profile cases hitting the news headlines, the employment of our first-ever Executive Officer and, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October, we will be launching the *Animal Justice Fund*.

*The Animal Justice Fund (AJF)* is a \$1 000 000 fund established by an anonymous benefactor to promote the cause of animal welfare through the prosecution of persons and/or corporations who commit offences against animals used in intensive farming, commercial and recreational practices. This effectively covers animals that are farmed, hunted, used in entertainment and/or sporting practices. Further, the *AJF* provides for rewards for information that leads to the successful prosecution of those breaching animal welfare legislation, which encourages those working within industries or partaking in recreational activities who witness breaches to come forward with any evidence where they may not have done so previously.

The *AJF* is unique to Tasmania and we at AACT are excited to have been given the opportunity to administer this groundbreaking concept for the protection of animals. We are also delighted to be liaising with *FitzGerald and Browne Lawyers* who will be responsible for providing advice and prosecuting *AJF* cases. The *AJF* launch will be announced on World Animal Day at the offices of *FitzGerald and Browne Lawyers* with AACT Committee members and Roland Browne in attendance.

Without those who are willing to stand up and do something, animal cruelty will continue. We therefore take this opportunity to thank Emma, Ben and Diana who, through their determination to bring to light footage of the plight of hens at Pitts Poultry, have moved someone so profoundly that the *Animal Justice Fund* has been created. Heartfelt thanks to our anonymous benefactor; whoever you are and wherever you may be.

For more information on the *Animal Justice Fund* go to the website at:  
[www.animaljusticefund.org.au](http://www.animaljusticefund.org.au).



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.**



Volunteers required - please contact Jenn Beer via e-mail/AACT office

1 November

## **World Vegan Day**



### **UPCOMING AACTivities**

6 October

#### **World Farm Animal Day**

World Farm Animal Day (WFAD) has been observed around the world since 1983. The day is dedicated to exposing, mourning and memorizing the unjustifiable suffering and deaths of billions of innocent animals in factory farming and slaughter houses. The date for World Farm Animal Day also honours the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, a strong believer in humane, sustainable farming practices.

World Farm Animal Day activities around the globe include marches, vigils, leafleting and exhibiting. These events occur not only on the day, but also during the week of October 2. To celebrate WFAD this year, AACT will be "bringing the farm to the city", complete with animals from Brightside Farm Sanctuary. Emma Haswell will conduct information sessions throughout the day aimed at raising public awareness of the suffering endured by intensively farmed animals. We will be on the Parliament House lawns near Salamanca markets from 10.00am on Saturday October 6. Please come and join us, volunteers most welcome! For further details phone: 0408 970 359 or e-mail: [info@AACT.org.au](mailto:info@AACT.org.au)

14 October

#### **Herb Health and Organic Expo**

Cygnet

Volunteers required - please contact Karen Bevis on 6295-0406

20/21 October

#### **Sustainable Living / Environmental Home Expo**

### **VEG KID**

Olivia Woof (11 yrs)

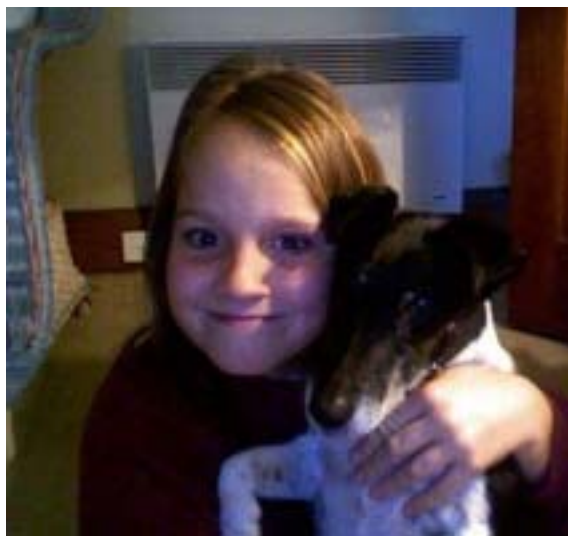
My nickname name is Vego. I get called that at school because I am vegetarian and the only one in my year. I love being called Vego. I am 11 and in grade 5 and some people in my year don't even know my real name which is Olivia. When I was born I was vegetarian until I was about 2. My Mum and my eldest sister who is 21 are also vegetarian. I ate meat sometimes until I was about 6 and then I decided to stop eating animals because I didn't like the fact that I was contributing to animals being slaughtered in horrific ways. I didn't miss eating meat. I don't eat chicken or fish either and only eat proper free range eggs.

It is sometimes hard being vegetarian as your friends eat meat in front of you and they say things like 'oh I bet you want to eat this' and put it near my face. In my head I am thinking *Yuk*. Sometimes I say to them 'How can you say you love animals when you eat them?' At school canteen there are not many vegetarian options and I don't think the canteen acknowledges some students are vegetarian. I don't try to make my friends vegetarian because I think they can choose that for themselves. But I do tell the truth about why I don't eat meat. I like going to the AACT pot luck dinners cos I know I can eat anything there and not have to worry about it having any meat in it. It's good to be with some other vegetarian kids.

Most of the boys at school think it is really cool to be a vegetarian and I think some of the girls are secretly jealous cos it is awesome being vegetarian. When my friends come to my house they eat vegetarian food and they like it. My grandparents make special meals for me but my Pa will say things like 'It's ok Olivia I know you are vegetarian so I got you some chicken'. This makes me laugh. At home we don't have meat in the house. My step-dad is not

vegetarian and sometimes he sneaks in bacon but I am not tempted at all. We never go to MacDonaldis or KFC ever but I don't care at all because I don't think it is a treat.

Sometimes people think if you are vegetarian you are not healthy. If you don't have the knowledge then you shouldn't think that. I am really healthy and I play a lot of sport. I eat a lot of vegetables and fruit. My favourite vegetables are raw or cooked carrots and my favourite fruit is kiwi fruit and I even eat the skin. My favourite meal is vegetable shepherd's pie with mashed potato on the top. Lots of people think lentils are yukky but I love Red Lentil Soup.



*Olivia & Lilly*

I sometimes go on protests with AACT to the things that I get upset about. I got really really angry and upset when I heard about the way pigs are treated and how they keep them in sow stalls. I have been to some Live Export protests as I feel so sorry for the animals on the horrible boats. I went to ZooDoo to the protest last weekend because Tigers should go to a proper open area zoo where they have experts to care for them and not jailed for life in a cage.

I love animals and have a dog called Lily. She is 12 and she is a Fox Terrier and she sleeps in my bed with me. I also have 4 female mice called Chirp, Pem, Tink and Snowy. I really really want a minature pig but Mum says no. I will be a vegetarian for my whole life.



## **SPECIAL TOPIC**

### **BUT A FISH IS A VEGETABLE ISN'T IT?**

Karen Bevis

How often do we hear people say "I'm vegetarian" only to find out later that they eat fish. What is it about fish that people seem to consider them vegetables? Let's first consider the definition of a vegetarian. The Webster Dictionary defines vegetarian as "one who eats no meat", "consisting only of vegetables, fruits etc."

There is no mention here of fish at all, or flesh of any kind or colour. Indeed that is the very nature of vegetarianism.

In fact a fish is a sentient being, as much as a cow, chicken or pig is and should never be considered part of any diet based on ethics and compassion. It appears that the confusion may arise because fish do not dwell in the same realm as we do, their lives are mysterious to us and we do not easily relate to them as individuals. We can not see their personalities. This does not, however, mean that such traits do not exist.

#### **Intelligence**

According to Dr Culum Brown of Macquarie University, co-author of Fish Cognition and Behaviour, in his study released in 2006 fish could be as socially able as monkeys and elephants. Having studied fish for the past ten years, Dr Brown found that they have impressive memories, learn quickly and can teach each other.

In the enclosed space of aquariums they often exhibit abnormal behaviours. These include abnormal feeding, shelter-seeking, bottom-sitting, head-standing and tail-walking. Repetitive behaviours were seen in 90% of the aquariums visited for Dr Brown's study.

Dr Theresa Burt de Perera of Oxford University in 2004 found that fish construct mental 'maps' of their surroundings, and quickly memorise any alterations, putting paid to the idea that goldfish have such short memories that they have forgotten where they have been by the time they swim around their bowl. Of course such ridiculously short memories would make it impossible to survive in a natural environment!

#### **Trauma to Wild Caught Fish**

In 2003, Dr Lynne Sneddon from the University of Liverpool proved, via some rather unsavoury research methods, that rainbow trout feel pain

and that their pain receptors have similar properties to those found in amphibians, birds and mammals – including humans.

A Dutch study in 1988 by Prof FJ Verheijen & Dr RJA Buwalda found that fear and stress were significant factors in fish caught by anglers, and one of the reasons that a fish once caught and released, will learn from the experience and avoid being caught again.

Catching and then releasing fish is popular in fishing competitions. Fish are weighed and then released. According to Texas Parks and Wildlife in a study that they undertook, 39% of Bass died after being released. In another study 69% of Silver Salmon died after being released. The physical trauma caused by the hook penetrating the mouth can cause difficulty in feeding and the possibility of infection.

Given these, and many other studies, imagine the pain and distress caused to fish of all species who are targeted by humans, whether it be by commercial or recreational fishing. We have all seen the image of a fish flopping around on the deck of a boat – that fish is not giving some automated mechanical response, it is stressed, it is terrified, and it is suffocating.

#### Factory Fish Farms

Yes, fish experience the appalling conditions of factory farming too. Farming of Atlantic Salmon is common in the estuaries of Tasmania. These fish are 'grown' in round mesh pens. Around 40,000 individuals are crammed into each and treated in much the same way, from beginning to end, as other factory farmed species. Trout farming is also common in Tasmania.

In fact aquaculture is the fastest growing food producing sector in the world with some experts at the 2006 world aquaculture conference predicting that within 25 years half of all fish eaten will be farmed (read factory farmed). At the current time around 27% of the world seafood supply is from aquaculture

So the next time you hear someone who eats fish claim the title of 'vegetarian' for themselves, politely engage them in conversation and point out the facts about fish. PETA have an excellent website dedicated to fish where you can find out more: [www.nofishing.net](http://www.nofishing.net)



## RABBIT FUR

Julie Williamson

It was disappointing this year to see a renewed interest by the fashion industry in fur clothing. Several clothing outlets around the State were observed to stock fur-trimmed clothing and undoubtedly many stockists and purchasers of these items would not know of the terrible suffering of the animals who lost their lives for this unnecessary fashion trend.

Much of the trim in clothing and fur in novelty items is sourced from the rabbit fur industry in China. Animal activists have revealed the cruelty and suffering involved in this trade. From the overcrowded conditions of rabbit farms to the terrible methods of slaughter, video footage and photographs reveal the suffering of rabbits through their lives and deaths. In some cases rabbits are skinned alive and left to die in agony.

As with many industries, the success of the rabbit fur trade relies on consumers buying the product. But you can do more than just saying 'no' and steering a wide berth around fur items. You can have an impact on the import of products by forwarding details of the store to the email address [rabbitby2@hotmail.com](mailto:rabbitby2@hotmail.com) so that shop owners and managers can be provided with information about the rabbit trade.

If possible you should note and provide the following:

- Name and address of the shop
- Where the product is made
- Whether it is labelled as rabbit fur
- Brand/label name and contact details if provided on the label, and
- Name of the manager or owner of the shop.

Providing facts and information in this way has resulted in major retail chains in Australia banning rabbit fur products. You can help with this campaign in Tasmania.

AACT will continue to highlight the cruelty of the fur trade, and we thank our members who maintain ongoing protest action outside a fur retailer in Launceston.

#### **Injured Birds**

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

## CAMPAIGN REPORTS

### LIVE EXPORT

Jenn Beer

In August of this year Animals Australia obtained copies of an Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) investigation report into the deaths of 1 683 Tasmanian sheep aboard a live shipment from Devonport. The report was obtained through Freedom of Information.

The shipment in question left Devonport in February 2006 bound for the Middle East. On board the ship, the MV Al Messilah, were 71 309 sheep (and 320 cattle which had been loaded in Portland Victoria). The company responsible for the shipment was Roberts Limited. The shipment was subject to protest action by a number of animal welfare groups including AACT.



The AQIS report concluded that sheep sourced from Tasmania are not adapted to adverse climatic conditions such as those experienced on a livestock vessel crossing the equator. Both Animals Australia and AACT agree that this could be used to support a prosecution against any Tasmanian company considering exporting sheep to the Middle East.

The report also highlighted the fact that a number of the Australian Live Export Standards were breached. These breaches included:

- Sheep affected with pink-eye (keratoconjunctivitis) were allowed into registered premises
- Horned sheep were loaded with poll (non-horned) sheep
- A widespread outbreak of pink-eye developed onboard the vessel and treatment was delayed due to understaffing

- Feed needed to be rationed towards the end of the journey

AACT believes that the AQIS report shows that Roberts Limited breached a number of Australian Live Export Standards for which they could potentially be prosecuted.

Full details of the report are available on the Animals Australia website: <http://animalsaustralia.org/media/foi.php>



### BATTERY HEN FARMS

Benedict Bartl & Emma Haswell

Following the investigation of Pitts Poultry farm at Oyster Cove in April 2007, AACT were contacted by a number of concerned citizens who raised concerns about more than just animal welfare issues at the offending farm. We were informed that not only had serious breaches of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993 (Tas)* been found, as screened on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's *Stateline* program, but also that an outbreak of salmonella poisoning in Tasmania's northwest in March 2007 was from eggs sourced from Pitts Poultry Farm. As if this state of affairs was not bad enough, some follow-up investigations revealed that far from being an isolated event Pitts Poultry were the source, according to a Federal Government Report, of 'one of the largest egg-associated outbreaks of food-borne illness in Australia for many years'.

Having confirmed with some of the businesses in question that they had indeed sourced their eggs from Pitts Poultry we wrote a letter on the 13th June 2007 to Lara Giddings, the Minister for Health and Human Services, in which we expressed our concerns at the continued accreditation of the offending farm due to both animal welfare and human health issues. A lead story entitled 'Bad Eggs' ran on the following Friday's *Stateline* program (15th June 2007). Despite continued community outrage at Pitts Poultry's continued accreditation, neither the Department of Primary Industries and Water nor the Department of Health and Human Services have revoked their accreditation.

In related news, the investigation of Pitts Poultry by AACT Committee Members Emma Haswell and Benedict Bartl (as detailed in the last newsletter) has been

referred to Police Prosecution and charges will be laid. However, contrary to media reports, Dr Rick Butler the President of the RSPCA has confirmed that the prosecution will be based on an investigation that took place in June 2007 and not of the breaches so graphically detailed in the footage obtained in April 2007.



## CAPTIVE BENGAL TIGERS

Kathleen McLaren

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of July about 30 AACT members and supporters gathered at the entrance to Zoo Doo Wildlife Park to voice our opposition to the planned 'exhibition' of 2 female Bengal tigers.

These tigers will be in an enclosure a fraction of the size of what they would have available in their normal habitat. They will be denied the expression of their natural behaviours. Wild cats kept in captivity become bored, frustrated and depressed and are prone to a psychological illness known as zoochosis, which consists of self-destructive or repetitive abnormal behaviours such as pacing and swaying.

Based on 40 years of studying animals in captivity and in the wild, an Oxford University study found that animals such as tigers, cheetahs, lions and polar bears "show the most evidence of stress and/or psychological dysfunction in captivity" and concluded that "the keeping of naturally wide-ranging carnivores should be either fundamentally improved or phased out."



The claim has been made that because the animals were born in captivity they are no longer wild and therefore it's not cruel to confine them. This is a poor argument as the animals

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still retain strong instincts to behave according to their nature. It would take hundreds if not thousands of years to breed out such instincts.

Most zoos, Zoo Doo in particular, do very little in educational terms. For example, what educational value is there in dying chicks bright colours? The chief thing zoos teach people is that it is acceptable to keep animals in captivity for our entertainment.

Unfortunately many people still hold the belief that human interests, no matter how petty and unnecessary, take precedence over the lives and welfare of every other species on the planet. It is the Might is Right mentality which when applied to other humans is (quite rightly) deemed by most, to be an unacceptable attitude. So why is it still acceptable to apply it to other species? Zoos help to maintain this arrogant notion that humans have a right to view wild animals in convenient locations (such as Tasmania) even if it means condemning the animal to a life in captivity far from their natural habitat.

AACT have been trying to find out what management plan is in place for the tigers destined for Zoo Doo and are also interested to know if there is going to be a veterinarian available to attend to problems specific to tigers.

What you can do:

Write to the: Minister for Primary Industry and Water:

Hon. David Llewellyn c/o Parliament House, Hobart. 7000

Write to: Greg Hocking, Wildlife Management Department, Dept. Primary Industries and Water, 1 Franklin Wharf, Hobart, 7000

Write to: Mr Trevor Cuttriss, Manager of Zoo Doo Wildlife Park, 620 Middle Tea Tree Road, Richmond, 7025 politely explaining

your concerns about having tigers as zoo exhibits.

Do not patronize zoos or any other establishment which confines animals. Instead send the cost of the ticket to a reputable organization which aims for protection of the species through protection of habitat or rehabilitates and releases animals into the wild or into a sanctuary.

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**OTHER AACTIVITIES**

**ANIMALS AUSTRALIA AGM**

Maria Merry

The Animals Australia AGM is in Adelaide this year from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, through to Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of October, and all AACT members are most welcome to attend. It is a fantastic opportunity to find out what has been happening in other groups around Australia and hear some wonderful overseas and local speakers presenting on various issues related to animals rights. "Animals Matter Symposium" is on the Saturday, followed by the conference dinner in the evening. The Animals Australia formal AGM is on the Sunday and Monday is the all day Animal Activists Meeting, which is a fantastic day where activists from around Australia share strategies and experiences. Several committee members are attending. For more details of costs and accommodation contact AACT.



**AACT IN CONVERSATION**

Yvette Watt

On Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup> AACT hosted a very special event involving three fascinating and high profile scholars with a passion for animals and desire to understand more about human-animal relationships, in the hope that there will be a real and necessary change in the manner in which we humans treat non-human animals. The evening saw Marc Bekoff and Jonathan Balcombe "interviewed" by Adrian Franklin in a chat show format with Adrian playing the part of the host. Jonathan is an animal behaviourist and a research scientist with The Physicians Committee for responsible medicine. His most recent book, the wonderful *Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good* has recently been published in Australia.

Marc is Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Colorado and co-founder with Jane Goodall of *Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals*. Marc is the author of numerous books including the *Encyclopaedia of Animal Rights and Animal Welfare*. His latest book, *The Emotional Lives of Animals* is a must read. Adrian Franklin is Professor of Sociology at the University of Tasmania and the author of *Animals and Modern Cultures* and the recently published *Animal Nation*. He is better known to the general public as one of the panel members of ABC TV's *The Collectors*.



Marc and Jonathan were in Hobart as speakers for the University of Tasmania Animals & Society Study Group Conference, *Considering Animals*, and so we were very fortunate to be able to make good use of them for this special event. It's not everyday you have people of this calibre in little old Hobart! The 40+ strong audience of AACT members and members of the public had no end of questions for Marc, Jonathan and Adrian who all happily mixed and chatted with people after the event. They went away very impressed by AACT's achievements

and we all felt inspired and impressed by their incredible knowledge and the amazing work they do for animals.

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

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

**BRIGHTSIDE FARM SANCTUARY**

Emma Haswell

*Princess*

Princess is an ex battery hen from Pitts poultry now living at Brightside Farm Sanctuary. I bought her when I was looking into how the poultry farm treated its hens. I arrived at Pitts and was told to get my own hen as the worker did not like going into the shed. I picked Princess as she was the thinnest, saddest looking hen I could find.



The way Princess behaved from the minute she arrived destroys any argument that battery hens don't know any better than life in a battery cage. Since the day she arrived all her eggs have been laid in carefully chosen places. While building Brightside my daughter Eliza and I lived in a caravan with an annexe, and in the annexe was a couch. In the first couple of days with us Princess discovered a pile of washing on the couch. I came home to see her sitting on a carefully sculptured nest made neatly from the washing. She was busy carefully tucking socks and underpants around her and had created an amazing and perfect nest for her egg! Later I removed the washing and the next day I came home to find Princess had found her way into the caravan. She had then got onto my bed and sculptured a deep sided round nest in the doona, and had laid a beautiful white egg in the centre. This was done by a hen who had just been released after spending her life to that point in a tiny wire cage with a wire floor that

had 4 hens in it and the floor area was approximately 30cm x 45cm in total.

Recently Princess chose to lay an egg in the horse feed bin - again a perfect nest, this time made with horse feed. I took the egg and put it on the lid of the next feed bin and when I came back later there was Princess sitting on the feed bin rolling it gently underneath her with her beak.

To me Princess is the perfect ambassador for her kind. She and her ex-battery hen friends have taught me a to have a deep respect for hens and a much better understanding of how wonderful and intelligent they are. I am also reminded daily when I see her zest for life how tragic, cruel and frustrating life is for the millions of battery hens in Australia who, like Princess, crave to build the perfect nest.

Being vegan helps us to live with the daily thoughts of their suffering and not eating foods that contain battery eggs is very important to us. It is our way of saying no to such terrible suffering and cruelty. Visit us at [www.brightside.org.au](http://www.brightside.org.au)

**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](http://www.brightside.org.au) or phone us on 0408-658-356.

**QUARTERLY QUOTE**

Ask the experimenters why they experiment on animals, and the answer is: "Because the animals are like us." Ask the experimenters why it is morally okay to experiment on animals, and the answer is: "Because the animals are not like us." Animal experimentation rests on a logical contradiction.

*Charles R Magel*

## **ED CHATS WITH JENN BEER – EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF AACT**

*Ed* How long have you been involved in the animal rights movement?

JB I have been actively involved in the animal rights movement for about 6 years.

*Ed* Do you remember any specific incident/circumstance that caused you to become involved in the animal rights movement?

JB A friend of mine, who has been involved in the animal rights movement for many years, gave me a couple of PETA DVDs to watch. One of them was of undercover footage shot in an abattoir. It was the most horrific display of animal cruelty I had ever seen. I had no idea that this sort of thing went on behind the scenes and I realised that probably most of the population was unaware as well. I knew right then that I wanted to make a difference, to make people aware of the suffering of animals. I spoke to my friend and she put me in touch with Animal Rights Advocates (a Western Australian based animal rights group). That very next week, we did a raid on a piggery. I was scared out of my mind, but when I saw the rows and rows of pigs confined in the sow stalls, I stopped being afraid and just felt shocked. The noise the pigs made as we entered was deafening and eerily human. Many of the pigs were in terrible condition. They had abrasions along their sides from where they were constantly rubbing against the metal bars of the stalls, some had prolapsed uteruses and all of them were standing on hard concrete floors covered in excrement. Nothing could have prepared me for the horrendous sight of an intensive pig farm. The fact that this type of practice is considered acceptable by industry makes me very upset and angry and that is why I am determined to do whatever I can to stop animals being treated inhumanely.

*Ed* What were you doing before becoming AACT's Executive Officer?

JB Goodness that seems like such a long time ago! Before I came to Hobart to work for AACT, I was living in Perth, Western Australia and working at Edith Cowan University as an English as a second language teacher. I helped prepare International students for study in Australian Unis. I also worked part-time for People Against Cruelty in Animal Transport and helped coordinate Animal Rights Advocates.

*Ed* What do you do when not campaigning for animal rights?

JB Think about campaigning for animal rights. It's hard to switch off as there is so much to be done. I have to say, I love walking around Hobart and looking at all the beautiful buildings here. It is so different to Perth.

*Ed* What's your favourite meal?

JB I have become completely addicted to Tasmanian smoked tofu. It is seriously Mana food! My favourite way to eat it is to grill it and eat it with some steamed pumpkin, snowpeas and bok choy with a dash of soy sauce.

*Ed* What do you like best about Tasmania?

JB I think I must still be in the 'honeymoon' phase...I really love Tasmania. Hobart must be one of the prettiest cities I have been to and I have travelled a lot. Perth is a relatively new city, so I am constantly amazed at how old some of the buildings here are. And the views ... beautiful. I also think that people here are really friendly. It takes me twice as long to do things here because everyone likes to have a chat. I spent half an hour paying for petrol the other week because the woman behind the counter started chatting.

*Ed* What's your vision for the world?

JB My vision for the world is one in which animals have the right to live their lives free from harm and suffering, where they are recognised as being sentient and are not viewed as property. A world where humans treat all living creatures and each other with kindness, dignity and respect.



## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **The Animals Reader: the essential classic and contemporary writings.**

*Edited by Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald*

Reviewed by Yvette Watt

For many animal advocates the writings of Peter Singer have been hugely influential. His book *Animal Liberation*, first published in 1975, has been instrumental in raising awareness of the many terrible things that humans do to other animals. Singer's book has prompted many

people to make ethically based changes in their own lives and lobby for change in the public attitudes toward animals that allow these practices to continue. While Singer's approach comes from his background in philosophy and ethics, his thinking and writing is part of a much broader interest in human-animal relationships that has a particularly strong representation in the humanities, but which is also of fundamental importance to the sciences.

A newly published book, *The Animals Reader*, brings together the work of 35 thinkers, including Singer, who have made important contributions to our understanding of the relationship between humans and other animals across many disciplines. Spanning almost 2500 years of thinking, from Aristotle and Plutarch to contemporary writings of recent years, *The Animals Reader* charts a history of thinking about human-animal relationships. With a subtitle of "The Essential Classic and Contemporary Writings" the editors, Linda Kalof and Amy Fitzgerald, imply that this volume is a vital addition to the bookshelf of anyone interested in human-animal studies. I think they are right. This is an incredibly well chosen collection of writings and a valuable reference book. It is a taster for those new to the field of human-animal studies and a useful reference for those who are more familiar with the subject.

While primarily aimed at an academic audience, it is also a great read for animal advocates who want to get a grasp of how both historical and contemporary thinkers influence the way we think about, and thus treat, non-human animals. At the beginning of each piece of writing a short biography is given for each author. Many animal advocates are aware of the famous quote from Jeremy Bentham: The question is not, Can they reason? Not "Can they talk? but Can they suffer? The *Animals Reader* places this quote in the context in which it was written.

The writings are brought together under 6 different headings: Animals as Philosophical and Ethical Subjects; Animals as Reflexive Thinkers; Animals as Domesticates – "Pets" and Food; Animals as Spectacle and Sport; Animals as Symbols; and Animals as Scientific Objects. With such a breadth of themes it may well be that some sections will be of more interest than others to many readers, and that some people may already be familiar with a number of the included writings. This is to be expected of a book such as this. But if you take the time to read the whole book (or at least those writings you aren't already familiar with) you will be rewarded with a sense of just how

complex our relationship with other animals is. You won't agree with everything that is written but you will gain a better understanding of the basis of many of the main arguments that persist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Contributors include Carol J. Adams, Aristotle, Steve Baker, Marc Bekoff, Jeremy Bentham, John Berger, Gilles Deleuze, Rene Decartes, Pliny the Elder, Felix Guatarri, Donna Haraway, Claude Levi-Strauss, Jim Mason, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Martha Nussbaum, Tom Regan, Peter Singer, Plutarch.

The *Animals Reader* is published by Berg and retails for \$71.00. It is available at the Co-op Bookshop at the University of Tasmania.

### **Do you want to see and end to cruel Battery Hen Farming?**

An AACT petition calling for an end to Battery Hen farming is currently being circulated around Tasmania and the signatures are coming in quickly. But, if this petition is to have an impact at a legislative level we need to break the record for the most signatories to a single petition ever tabled in Tasmania's Parliament. The record is 41,000 and we believe this number can be smashed.

If you would like to door knock your street, your suburb or your city for one hour or more could you please contact AACT Committee Member Benedict Bartl at [bbartl@utas.edu.au](mailto:bbartl@utas.edu.au) or on 0417 032 832.

## **NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA**

### **Canberra, ACT**

In August Peter Costello introduced the Trade Practices Amendment (Small Business Protection) Bill 2007, re-affirming the Howard government's "commitment to stand up for small business against thuggery and intimidation." But the Bill is designed to protect businesses of ANY size, snaring anyone calling for customer boycotts. Its introduction is a direct result of PETA's highly successful anti-mulesing campaign.

### **Melbourne, VIC**

Victorian Advocates For Animals has successfully campaigned for black netting, spiked-snap traps and glue traps to be de-ranked in all Mitre 10, Danks, Bunnings and Flower Power stores.

## ... AND AROUND THE GLOBE

### **London, United Kingdom**

British consumers are for the first time ever buying more free range eggs than battery farmed eggs. Furthermore, Sainsbury's has announced that it plans to phase out battery eggs by 2012.

### **New York, USA**

New York state has become the first state in the country to ban the inhumane electrocution (including anal and genital electrocution) of animals raised for the fur industry.

"Animals killed to make fur coats and fur-trimmed apparel suffer in numerous ways, but one of the most inhumane and painful methods is the anal or genital electrocution of foxes, chinchillas and other animals," said Michael Markarian, executive vice president of The Humane Society of the United States.



## COMMITTEE MEMBER INFORMATION

Executive Officer: Jenn Beer

Co-ordinator: Julie Williamson

Deputy co-ordinator: Kathleen McLaren

Secretary: Angela Ayling

Treasurer: Yvette Watt

Membership Secretary: Maria Merry

General Committee Member: Lin Ashton

General Committee Member: Ben Bartl

General Committee Member: Karen Bohmer

General Committee Member: Emma Haswell



..... ✂ .....

## AACT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION /RENEWAL FORM

Name.....

Email.....

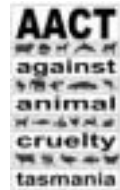
Address.....

Postcode.....

Home ☎ .....

Work ☎ .....

Mobile ☎ .....



Sign up for

Full (\$25/year)       Unwaged (\$15/year)  
*(if paying 1 July to 31 December)*

Full (\$12.50/6mths)       Unwaged (\$7.50/6mths)  
*(if paying 1 January to 30 June)*

Renewal

Please note that the membership period runs from 1 July.

I would like to make a donation of \$.....

Please forward with cheque/money order (payable to AACT) to:

Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania

PO Box 1045

Sandy Bay 7006

Tasmania

info@AACT.org.au

☎ 6224-6229

### **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

## **STOP PRESS!!!**

If you are in the city during October, watch out for the new AACT billboard at 147 Elizabeth Street showing the horrendous conditions of battery hens in cages and sows in stalls. This very moving image is a part of AACT's factory farming public awareness campaign.

The billboard was made possible thanks to a generous donation from Bio-Distributors and the time and graphic design skills of Justy Phillips and Yvette.

