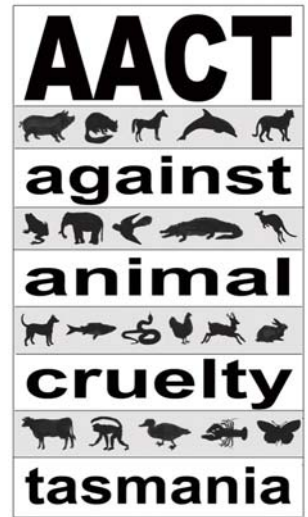


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AACT Now

quarterly news from Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania

Volume 2, Issue 2

September 2005

Teach your children well ...

Watch a young child with a puppy, a kitten or injured bird. Do you see cruelty? Watch them with a lamb, cow, pig or chicken. Do you see cruelty now? Do they want to harm that being? Children are not born cruel. They are not born with cruel genes that start producing cruel hormones only when they reach late childhood?

Tell a child it's her pet pig, her best friend, who she's having for dinner and study her reaction. A huge black cloud of sadness descends, her little body quivers with storm-filled sobs and she flees from the table to find sanctuary in her room, or in a secret haven in the garden. Listen closely and you'll hear a thousand tear-filled apologies to her departed friend, to a life so cruelly taken. And on her return, look deep into her eyes: see the devastating disappointment. How could her parents do this to someone she loved so much? Do this to her? Her parents tremble with the coldness of her look, with their shame that has caused it. And wriggling within the web of shame one turns to the other and says, "I told you we should never have told her. We should have said Lucy's gone to stay with a friend. Now look what we've done." And from that day on, a shameful cloth of lies garnishes the kitchen table.

Cruelty to animals is not in-built. And it's seldom consciously taught. It is borne out of shameful table-cloths of lies and Sunday roasts smothered with guilty silence. It arises from a void of knowledge. How can we, as adults, know the consequences of our actions when as children they were hidden from us. We cannot

make healthy decisions based on unhealthy knowledge – or on no knowledge at all. How many vegetarians or vegans reading this were brought up in a meat-eating house, totally unaware of the pain we were inflicting every time we placed a spoonful of meat in our mouths? Had you known, would you have eaten it? Would you have knowingly caused so much suffering?

All too often children are denied knowledge by the parents and adults around them. Looking at a picture of a dying battery hen in a cage is not acceptable, but playing Grand Theft Auto on a Sony PlayStation is. It's ironic that the dying hen, deemed too confronting and too disturbing for Mikey, will teach him the compassion our world needs so desperately while the more acceptable electronic games serve only to direct him to a life filled with violence. Is this protecting our children? Is this really what we want to teach our children? Will shielding them from compassion produce true leaders of tomorrow?

Children need to meet the animals. Need to touch them. Smell them. Love them. Cry for them. And when questions are asked they should be answered truthfully. That way, we'll know we're teaching our children well.

Craig Quarmby

Injured Birds

If you find sick or injured birds, adults or nestlings, including sparrows and starlings, please ring **Irene: 6265 8988**

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

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

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

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



COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Yvette Watt

Change of committee line up

Yes, we have some more line-up changes on the committee! Firstly, we must congratulate Kiren and Geoff Couser on the birth of their baby boy - Thomas. Of course, with junior's arrival Kiren is taking an extended leave as Treasurer. This role has been taken on by Karen Bohmer, who is currently also our Deputy Coordinator while Sue Quarmby is on leave (you MUST learn to say NO, Karen!). Maria Merry has taken on the task of dealing with memberships, which means a little less work for the Treasurer!

Also, we regretfully accepted the resignation from the committee by Liz Hynes. Liz was a hard working and valued member of the committee, but we're not losing her completely as Liz fully intends to continue as an active

general member of AACT (or should I say an AACTive member!) and already has plans for the next fundraising stall!

Finally, we are delighted welcome two new general committee members, Josie Hurst and Sarah Beechey. Both of these wonderful young women come with a huge amount of enthusiasm and passion for the cause as well as some very valuable skills and we are thrilled to have them on board!

Animals Australia AGM/Conference

Those of you on our email list should have already received notice of this exciting event. As mentioned in the last newsletter we are very excited to be hosting the Animals Australia AGM and Conference. This meeting of animal advocates from around Australia takes place in a different city each year, but this is the very first time it has even been held in Hobart.

The meeting is on October 15, 16 & 17 above Sirens Vegetarian Restaurant, Victoria St, Hobart and all members of AACT are encourage to attend what will be an inspiring and informative gathering. I have been to several of these meetings over the years and always come away feeling motivated by all the wonderful work people are doing for animals around Australia. It's a great forum for sharing ideas and campaign strategies, not to mention just spending time with like-minded people.

The final program is not yet complete, but the Saturday will be the conference day with guest speakers, the Sunday is the AGM with reports from the various Animals Australia sub-divisions covering the highlights over the year. The Monday is the animal advocates meeting where we share ideas, experiences and think through campaign strategies for the coming year.

You will find a registration form and draft agenda attached to this newsletter. Please be sure to register by September 16th as we need to know firm numbers for catering purposes. Your registration fees include delicious morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, all catered by Sirens (all food will be vegan) as well as the conference dinner at Sirens on the Saturday night. We really hope you can all make it!

End War on Wildlife

Our campaign to end Tasmania's war on wildlife continues. Not only is 1080 poison in widespread use in Tasmania's forests but as we

witnessed recently on King Island it is also widely used by farmers. However, this isn't all. Our wildlife is also a favourite with hunters with wallabies a popular target. Hunting wallabies using shotguns is banned in four mainland states for commercial shooters because the guns are less accurate allowing injured animals to escape to suffer and die from injuries, infection or starvation. However, shotguns are widely used in Tasmania.

Wallaby shooters often use packs of dogs to flush animals out from the undergrowth and in some cases, to maul and kill them. *Tasmania is the only State in Australia* where it is legal to use hunting dogs for the purpose of flushing out and killing native wildlife. Hunting dogs can cause extreme distress, severe injuries and death to Bennett's Wallabies, Tasmanian Pademelons and other fully protected species: Quail, Native Hens and other ground dwelling birds, Bettongs, Potoroos, Eastern Quolls, Bandicoots and Wombats.

AACT is working with The Tasmanian Conservation Trust and a number of groups around Australia to draw attention to this slaughter of our wildlife and to try and bring an end to this terrible practice. A new leaflet has been produced on the topic. Please let us know if you would like a copy. The issue will be a major topic of discussion at the upcoming Animals Australia AGM & Conference here in October.

Support from Ric Easton (Biodynamic Distributors)

We are extremely grateful to the support that has recently come our way from Ric and Jo Easton of Bio-distributors in Sheffield. Thanks to their wonderfully generous support we have extra funds for our pig campaign and will soon have a new computer for the office! This will make a huge difference, meaning that finally we will have everything centralised rather than bits and pieces on lots of different committee members' computers.

Fundraising Stalls

A HUGE thank you to Liz Hynes, who single-handedly held a fundraising market stall at the Sorell markets, raising a total of \$255 in much needed funds. We hope to make these an ongoing fundraiser so if you have any goods for sale please send us an email (AACT_now@hotmail.com) or phone Yvette on 6231 6520 or 0407 564 425.

STOP PRESS

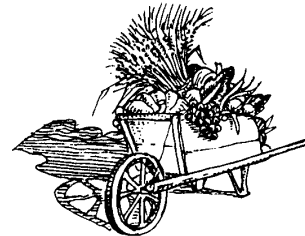
The Tasmanian Animal Welfare Act is up for review and is now open for public comment. We encourage you to make a submission before the deadline of 21 September 2005. Copies are available at: <http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Topics/LBUN-63T44C?open> or contact AACT for more info.

Thanks to Bio-Distributors for their financial support.

Bio-Distributors are suppliers of certified organic food and other organic products.

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www.biodistributors.com.au



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RECENT ACTION REPORTS

BROILER CHICKENS / KFC

Liz Hardy

Our first protest was on Saturday July 2 at Kings Meadows KFC. We had five supporters there, and although we had no official banners I had made some the day before, and ALV kindly sent Emma some dramatic pictures from inside the chicken sheds, which were blown up and very effective. KFC Kings Meadows is on a very busy road, and many people waved and hooted, plus gave us the thumbs up sign. Southern Cross arrived and Emma was designated as our spokesperson. We made the 6.00 o'clock news, and I was well disguised in the Giant chicken suit! All in all a great day!

On the 30th of July in Mowbray we doubled our numbers! The chicken suit was worn again, and we had added a cardboard egg made in

sandwich board style, which read, "Hatched into HELL". The Media coverage doubled too, WIN television was present as well as Southern Cross. We made the Southern Cross news, but unfortunately not WIN. We became aware during the demonstration that the majority of people have no idea where their KFC comes from, and how the chickens are kept. Most seem to believe that they come from free range farms, not the huge broiler sheds where they are packed into tiny cages (not uncommonly more than one to a cage), so we are getting out there and making people aware of the cruelty they are unwittingly supporting every time they visit KFC.



LIVE EXPORT

Suzanne Cass

We continued our live export protests following the Devonport shipment with protests at Roberts, and visits to Salamanca on Friday nights and Saturdays to distribute information and add to our signed petitions.

Our major activities culminated in a rally on Parliament House Lawns on June 9, the day before the Meat Industry "forum" was to be held in Launceston. The Rally was attended by about 80 people, and we presented the petitions, containing over 4,000 signatures, to Greens MHA Kim Booth for presentation to Parliament. Kim's speech was inspiring, and much appreciated, and the petition was to be presented in the House on the following Tuesday. Kim's speech was followed by an address from Grant Courtney, State Secretary of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union.



Media packages containing reports and CD's of live export footage had been prepared and were provided to media representatives present at the Rally. Minister Kons appeared on the steps of Parliament at the conclusion of the rally, and accepted a media package. He later made contact to say that he had viewed the footage of the conditions experienced by the animals, and read the reports. While AACT felt that this was progress, he did maintain his position of refusing AACT access to the forum. On the day of the forum (June 10), AACT committee members travelled from Hobart up to Launceston, and met up with Northern members outside the forum, including real and "pretend" sheep, which attracted further media attention.



As a follow up, AACT has written to Mr Kons seeking a meeting to gain feedback from the forum and discuss the matter generally, as well as writing to the live export agents Roberts, whose Managing Director Miles Hampton has reportedly stated that he "wishes live exports would go away" and that he "receives hate mail

encouraging and supporting cruelty free living

every day". On the 23rd of August a meeting was held with Minister Steve Kons. Details of this meeting will be in the next newsletter. Unfortunately, Roberts declined our request for a meeting which leaves AACT with little choice but to continue the demonstrations.

We will continue our campaign, fuelled further by the facts that the trade with Saudi Arabia has recommenced, and that the industry continues to hide behind Federal Government protective legislation. Three major (taxpayer funded) enquiries recommended that the industry be made more accountable and transparent, yet little has changed, and the ships used to transport the animals are still totally unacceptable. Claims by the industry that improvements have been made are spurious, and recent reports state clearly that the industry cannot make improvements to animal welfare in importing countries.

Mulesing

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has reached a historic agreement with the Australian Wool Growers' Association (AWGA) which sets out standards for mulesing, including a scaled phase-out, and the use of analgesia for the procedure. The agreement also requires that animals sent for live export must not face worse conditions of transport, handling and slaughter than they would in Australia, or the practice must end. It seems fair to say that the live export industry cannot demonstrate that this will ever be the case, so we await developments. Typically, the larger farming lobbies have slammed this agreement, because to implement serious improvements to animal welfare is costly. Interestingly though, there are claims that there will be a shortage of ships to service the live export trade when stricter regulations are implemented in 2006. The ships were always sub-standard, but now, we hope, many will be headed for the scrap yards because the improvements that will be required will simply be too expensive for such old ships.

One concern we have is over reports that there are not enough sheep in Western Australia to service the re-commenced trade to Saudi Arabia, and the industry may look to Tasmania for more animals, which would mean additional shipments from Devonport.

Suzanne Cass
Live Export Campaign Co-ordinator

BIG Thank You's to Guy at Mouse on Mars Internet Café (upstairs at Salamanca) for putting up our Live Export Rally banner, and to Michelle and Adam at Bob Brown's office who tirelessly send out all AACT's media releases.



UPCOMING EVENTS

World Animals Day and World Farm Animals Day

2 & 4 October 2005

Keep in touch with AACT for further details.

Ongoing demonstrations outside Roberts Real Estate stores and KFC stores

Contact your AACT committee member for details of the next demonstration.

SOW STALLS

Emma Haswell

Thank you to those of you who have given your time to help with the stalls at Salamanca with Fudge & Wilbur the pigs and Woolly the lamb. These visits to Salamanca have proved very worth while. Hundreds of pig postcards have been signed and we always get new members in the weeks that follow.

Many people thank us for letting them know the sad way in which sows are kept here in Tasmania. People are shocked to learn that the sow crates are only 60cm wide and 2 metres long with concrete floors, and that at least two thirds of Tasmanian sows live in these crates with no mental stimulation or room to move.

We will continue to highlight the plight of these beautiful animals and appreciate any time you may have to offer.



DUCK SHOOTING

Catherine Silcock

Hear Hear Mr. Beattie! Hear that Ms Jackson?

Celebrations! Dear Friends and Animal Lovers there has been a victory! It is time for a grand celebration, a champagne occasion of the first order and it's HOORAY for the Queenslanders!

If you haven't heard it already the news is no more Duck and Quail hunting in Queensland...it's all true ..and it gets better.

Being the dying 'sport' that it is, Queensland shooter numbers have been shrinking (as they have been nationwide) and whilst a slow fizzle out would perhaps have been inevitable eventually, Premier Beattie took the very commendable step of saying it like it is. "(Duck hunting) is not an appropriate activity in contemporary life in the smart state" Hear hear Mr. Beattie! His media release went on to explain, on the advice of the RSPCA, that 90 % of ducks shot suffered a cruel and slow death.

With duck shooting now illegal in the ACT, WA, NSW, and QLD we are of course determined that Tassie is next. What a logical next step for a state where public opinion objects furiously to this cruel, stupid and out-dated practice. What an embarrassment to continue as one of the last states where this offensive plunder remains legal. Not an appropriate activity in contemporary life in the smart state? And nor is it an appropriate activity in contemporary life in the Clean, Green and Clever State.

We are currently working to reopen this discussion with Minister for Environment and Planning, Judy Jackson, who can be contacted on 6233-4180 if you would like to add your voice to the discussion.

Finally, congratulations to everyone everywhere who has been working towards this fabulous end. Raise a glass to every person who has worked to turn this tide. What a win!



QUARTERLY HOT TOPIC

MOVIE STAR PIGS

Emma Haswell

Many of you may know that Paramount Pictures have been filming Charlotte's Web in Victoria this year. At the end of the filming homes were needed for the 41 piglets who starred in the film. Animals Australia did an amazing job finding each of them wonderful homes.

Nine of the piglets found homes in Tasmania. One of them Willie came to live with us. She has made a firm friendship with Fudge the pig

(see last newsletter – then a piglet) already living with us. She has joined Fudge in campaigning against sow stalls and the factory farming of pigs here in Tasmania. Like Fudge Willie has visited Salamanca market and children in their classrooms. She is very well behaved and walks on a lead beautifully.



Lucy, Mango and PawPaw went to live with Sue and Craig Quarmby and their piglet Ruby. They love bush walking with the dogs and the goats and recently enjoyed playing in the snow! Sunny flew to Flinders Island to join the Caufields - she was the first and only passenger on the island's brand new seven seater plane. A much treasured passenger!



AACT MEMBERS MEETING

Sunday 25 September 2005

Environment Centre
102 Bathurst St Hobart
4.00pm

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

Maisy, Dookada and Ella Star have joined the Bevis family. They love vegan dog biscuits and digging holes with four year old Taishah.

The Eastons have Rosie and Zoe who also love walks and race ahead to the next treat place down the track where they wait for their treats. At the end of the walk they always jump up onto a stump for their final treat. They have a guardian called Playful who is a 13 year old Smithfield Kelpie X.

All the pigs are loving their new lives spending time rooting, eating, sleeping and loving the company of their new families.

Thank you to Lyn at Animals Australia and thank you to all of you who adopted these beautiful pigs.



QUARTERLY QUOTE

Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop harming all other living beings, we are still savages.

Thomas Edison



NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

Brisbane, Queensland

On the 10th of August Queensland Premier Peter Beattie told State parliament that duck and quail shooting would cease in that state. "It's time to ban the recreational shooting of ducks and quail," he said. "This is not an appropriate activity in contemporary life in the Smart State."

(Minister Jackson, could we please follow suit?)

Malvern, Victoria

The Australian Association for Humane Research Inc. recently launched its new revamped website to provide further insight into the world of animal-based research: www.aahr.asn.au provides a wealth of information including fact sheets, statistics, and general information about the use of animals in research, as well as a list of health charities that do not conduct nor support animal-based

research.

... AND AROUND THE GLOBE

London, United Kingdom

Animal protein production will have to treble by 2050 in order to meet population growth and rising living standards in countries like China, the head of the world animal feed body said on Wednesday. "In the next 45 years, the world will need to produce three times more meat, milk and eggs than it does now," said Roger Gilbert, General Secretary of the International Feed Industry Federation when he recently addressed the International Grains Council annual conference.

(More birds and animals tortured, more forests destroyed, more climate change ... and an unhealthy global population dying from clogged cardiac arteries and bowel cancer.)



VEGETARIAN RECIPE

Lentil Dahl

Annabella's Kitchen

www.annabella.net/vegetarian.html

"This recipe improves with age! Allow to sit for 1 day before eating (if you can) and it's great served with Indian bread such as chapati or naan".

Ingredients:

- 1 small onion chopped finely
- 1 quarter leek root sliced (white bit)
- 1 tbsp grated fresh ginger
- 1 tbsp turmeric
- 1 small red chilli (optional - if you like it hot)
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 cup dried green/brown lentils
- 3 cups vegie stock
- 1 can crushed tomatoes
- 1 zucchini
- ½ red capsicum
- lemon and black pepper

Method:

1. Coat pan with cooking spray, and cook onion, leek, ginger, turmeric, chilli and coriander (2 mins).
2. Add lentils and coat with spices.
3. Add stock, tomatoes, zucchini, capsicum. Bring to the boil and simmer for 20 mins - covered.
4. Serve with a squeeze of lemon juice and pepper.

ANIMALS AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE AND AGM

15 – 17 October 2005

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

See insert / attached documents



Death in Motion

Thomas Goss

We met there,
In a forest of others.
I closed my eyes and reached for a black stone
submerged in the dark water;
Sometimes black is so delicately constructed.
But with my touch the explosion of gunfire
flashed.
Then I could hear and smell more clearly the
death and life of shotgunned ducks,
of the disgusting jubilation of destruction: when
the hunter injects the heroin
of the not-being-prey.

let them pretend but not us:
the animal trembling is all around us,
in between the air of each shared breath

and no amount of canyon-yelling or
other-killing will quench it

the dark forest world:
the rush of birds flushed out
just before the death-dive

what is it like to be comfortable in flight
then to plunge half-dead where nothing is
centered upon you
like leaping into the pavement
from 20 stories but when you hit it is nothing but
ordinary;
cheers even erupt - it's a celebration

and something beautiful has died in full motion:
nothing a photograph could hope to capture
but like a bird's beating heart,
slowly arcing downward to towards death.

you are beautiful you are beautiful

that is why they kill you
isn't it?

ANIMAL FRIENDLY WEBSITES

United Animal Nations www.uan.org
**International Generic Horse Association and
HorseAid** www.igha.org (Fighting against the
ongoing production of Premarin)
Animal Sentience www.animalsentience.com

Keep an eye on our exciting new WEBSITE
www.aact.org.au

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Promote your business to over 100 readers on this page!

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¼ page - \$25 ½ page - \$50 full page - \$100

Please contact AACT for further details

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Coordinator: Yvette Watt
Deputy Coordinator: Karen Bohmer
Treasurer: Karen Bohmer
Secretary: Suzanne Cass
Membership Secretary: Maria Merry
General Committee: Ben Bartl, Sarah Beechey,
Emma Haswell, Josie Hurst, Catherine Silcock
Newsletter Editor: Craig Quarmby
Website Developer: Karen Bevis

CAMPAIGN COORDINATORS

Live export: Suzanne Cass
Intensive pig farming: Emma Haswell
Duck shooting: Catherine Silcock

AACT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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