

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005
Issue 44



**CANADIANS FOR ETHICAL TREATMENT
OF FOOD ANIMALS**

website: www.cetfa.com

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CETFA's Spring Newsletter Announces Special Event

*Speaking Out For
Food Animals!*

Come to

**FREE
ADMISSION**

ANIMAL VOICES FILM FEST

June 5th 2005

**VANCOUVER EAST CULTURAL CENTRE
1895 Venables Street at Victoria Drive**

Presented by **CETFA** with support from the
ANIMAL DEFENSE AND ANTIVIVISECTION SOCIETY
EARTHSAVE CANADA
and the **VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY**

We hope that as many of you will come as possible and **PLEASE** bring your friends, especially those who have never thought about where their food actually comes from or how it gets to our tables! There is so much to learn!

DOORS OPEN AT 1:00 pm

Continuous showings from 1:30 pm to 9 pm

Display tables from several groups to provide you with more information.

See Film Descriptions, Film Fest Schedule
and **MORE FOOD ANIMAL NEWS**
inside this issue.

FOUR FILM FEST FEATURES:

"Peaceable Kingdom"

"Animals Angels"

"Farm Animals and Us"

"Caring Classrooms"



FARM SANCTUARY



VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY

For more FILM FEST information or schedules see www.animalvoices.org/filmfest or phone 604-924-4966

CETFA Lobbies and the Honourable IRWIN COTLER Replies

The following letter, dated January 14th 2005, was received by CETFA in reply to its letter of October 16th last year: -

"Thank you for your correspondence of October 16, 2004, regarding amendments to the animal cruelty legislation.

"As you are probably aware, on May 23rd, 2004, Bill C - 22 died in the Senate when Parliament was dissolved for an election. The government of Canada remains committed to improving the animal cruelty laws in Canada and ensuring that such deplorable behaviour is treated appropriately by the justice system. The Government is committed to reintroducing this legislation at the earliest opportunity during this session of parliament.

"Thank you again for writing. Yours sincerely, Irwin Cotler"

BUT THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED!

CETFA Member Writes Her MP and Minister of Agriculture Responds

On December 14th 2004 CETFA member Judith Davis wrote the following splendid letter to the Honourable Stephen Owen. Judith, we all thank you.

"Dear Mr. Owen, I write you as a resident in your constituency. I enclose a copy of the latest Newsletter from CETFA (Canadians for Ethical Treatment of Food Animals), with some truly shocking information about the treatment of animals on the way to, and at, slaughterhouses. You may already be aware of this information. If so what steps have you taken to press for the introduction of legislation for more humane treatment of food animals?

"I find it appalling and disgusting that the federal government, of which you are a Minister, appears to be unwilling, or more likely uncaring, to do anything to ameliorate the dreadful conditions of animals being transported to

slaughterhouses. As the articles in the newsletter make clear, there are two aspects to the situation: (1) the humane treatment of animals, (2) the risk to consumers health. (2) would be much better dealt with if (1) were implemented. The comparison of European legislation on the transport of animals clearly shows that Canada is lagging far behind Europe, although we may mistakenly think we are more advanced in such matters. Admittedly the travel distances in this large country are greater, but that is all the more reason to implement shorter travelling times and longer rest times and better treatment for animals in transport.

"Even more shocking is the treatment of downer and sick animals. These animals

should not be transported but should be dealt with at the point of origin, and never put into the food chain.

"I add my voice to the two people whose eloquent letters are printed in the newsletter - please do everything you can to bring about the speedy passage of Bill C22, and its immediate implementation. No-one has any confidence that the "industry" will regulate itself - it makes too much money from its current inhumane practices, and will try to block any attempt to force it to change to more humane practices - after all, we wouldn't want to cut into their profits, would we? I look forward to hearing from you. Yours truly, Judith Davis"

The reply to this most excellent letter was dated April 15th 2005 and came from the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture, with a c.c. to the Honourable Stephen Owen:

"Dear Ms. Davis:

"I am writing in response to your letter to the Honourable Stephen Owen regarding the humane treatment of animals in Canada. As you know, Minister Owen forwarded a copy of your letter to me for my consideration.

"Regulations made under the authority of the Health of Animals Act prohibit the transportation of any animal under inhumane conditions and state that carriers cannot load, transport or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering. There are also requirements for the provision of food, water and rest at specific intervals; protection from adverse weather; adequate ventilation; the use of proper containers and transport vehicles; and the segregation of incompatible animals.

"At ports of entry, federal establishments, assembly points and export quarantines, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) inspectors monitor the handling and transportation of animals as part of their inspection activities. In addition, targeted blitzes are carried out on an area basis, and appropriate enforcement action is taken with respect to violations. Active investigation of complaints is a critical component to ensuring compliance, and any incidents such as rough handling or overcrowding should be reported to the nearest CFIA office as soon as possible,

to enable inspectors to gather evidence.

"Based on recent research results, the CFIA is developing a proposal to amend the Regulations to provide more frequent food, water, and rest breaks and make other improvements to the transportation of horses and other animals. The proposed amendments would recognize scientific information that has recently become available, clarify certain sections of the Regulations (e.g. provide definitions) and address new industry practices that did not exist when the Regulations were drafted in the 1970s. Under the current Canadian regulations, any animal must be able to stand in its natural position without coming into contact with a deck or roof. Although this provision does not disallow loading horses into double-deck trailers, selecting horses of suitable size is made necessary.

"I note the point about the difference between Canadian and European union (EU) standards for animal transport. There is no doubt that technical details (e.g. the maximum permissible loading ramp angles or the time intervals for transport, rest, feeding and watering) differ between Canada and the EU - or between other countries, for that matter.

"Although Canada and the EU share a consistent guiding principle with respect to

animal welfare - the prevention of injury and undue suffering - we have different regulatory approaches to achieving this goal. For this reason, a direct comparison of our regulatory requirements is not possible. Notwithstanding these differences, the CFIA is considering the EU standards as part of its review of current transportation guidelines.

"With regard to the transport of non-ambulatory animals (downers), a proposal to amend the *Health of Animals Regulations* by prohibiting the loading of non-ambulatory livestock, under most circumstances, was published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part 1, on December 18, 2004. Background information is available on the CFIA Web site at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/transport/information.e.shtml>

"Regulations and operational policies under the Meat Inspection Act set standards for the humane handling and slaughter of food animals in federally registered abattoirs. These standards cover the unloading and movement of animals in slaughter facilities, the segregation and handling of sick or injured animals and the humane slaughter of animals. CFIA inspectors are located at each federally registered abattoir in Canada to monitor animal handling and stunning procedures as part of their duties. Provincial governments are responsible for humane slaughter at provincial abattoirs.

"Furthermore Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has helped industry stakeholder groups put together the Recommended Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals, which supplement the regulatory provisions to the *Health of Animals Regulations*. Additional initiatives are underway, and AAFC will continue to help industry develop a coordinated national approach to improve the humane treatment of animals in Canada.

(continued on page 3)

BOYCOTT RODEOS...

Congratulations to Debra Probert of the Vancouver Humane Society for speaking out eloquently against the cruelty of rodeos in a CBC radio debate on May 12th 2005. The rodeo season is upon us and CETFA urges all its readers to boycott rodeos and to speak out against violence to animals as a spectator sport.

CCFA - BE HUMAN, BE HUMANE

A new CCFA public service announcement launched May 12th, 2005 asks Canadians to think about the way food animals are raised. Produced by the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals, "Be Human, Be Humane" is the first Canadian-produced television spot to focus on farm animal welfare.

To view online visit
www.humanefood.ca/psa.html

Minister of Agriculture Responds... (continued from page 2)

"Meanwhile, I share the position with the vast majority of my colleagues in government that cruelty to animals is unacceptable and that stronger penalties under the *Criminal Code* (former Bill C-22 would be appropriate. I note that the Honourable Stephen Owen has forwarded a copy of your letter to the Honourable Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice, for his consideration.

"I trust that this is of assistance, and thank you for writing on this important issue.

"Sincerely, Andy Mitchell"



*In spite of this positive sounding letter, even the inadequate regulations are not adequately enforced. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) statistics show that **2,342,287 ANIMALS DIED IN TRANSIT TO SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN 2004**. This was a slight improvement on previous years - in 2003 there were 2,790,053 dead on arrival at federally inspected slaughter plants and this was a little better than the 3,088,259 animals and poultry that died in transit in 2002.*

THESE NUMBERS REPRESENT ENORMOUS SUFFERING.

THE GOVERNMENT FAILS TO ADEQUATELY ENFORCE WEAK, EXISTING LEGISLATION AND IT FAILS TO PUT NEW LEGISLATION IN PLACE THAT WOULD MORE EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

FURTHERMORE, IT IS LEGAL TO BRING DOWNERS INTO SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND THEN THEIR MEAT CAN BE SOLD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN CANADA (although not exported).

NO MONEY IS RECEIVED FOR ANIMALS EUTHANISED BEFORE REACHING SLAUGHTERHOUSE FLOOR.

However if a weak or injured animal (without disease) reaches the slaughterhouse floor alive it is deemed fit for human consumption.

This triggers a REWARD FOR PERPETUATING THE PAIN AND SUFFERING OF FOOD ANIMALS BECAUSE, WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE AGONY OF THE ANIMAL INVOLVED, IF IT CAN BE ELECTRIC PRODDED, DRAGGED, SHACKLED AND HOISTED OR SHOVELLED INTO THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE TO BE KILLED, MONEY IS RECEIVED FOR ITS MEAT.

At last - on March 18th 2005 the Hon. Stephen Owen responds to Patricia Oswald's letter of last Fall:

"Dear Patricia Oswald, Thank you for your correspondence regarding animal cruelty laws. As you may be aware, on March, 2004, Bill C-10B, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (cruelty to animals), was reinstated in the House of Commons as Bill C-22. On May 23, 2004, Bill C-22 died in the Senate when Parliament was dissolved for an election.

"The Government of Canada remains committed to improving the animal cruelty laws in Canada and ensuring that such deplorable behaviour is treated appropriately by the justice system. The Government is committed to reintroducing this legislation.

"Thank you again for writing. Sincerely, Stephen Owen."

THINGS YOU CAN DO

1. Please come to CETFA's Food Animal Film Fest! Bring friends who would like to learn how some food is produced and the enormous changes that have taken place between the middle of the last century and the beginning of this one.
2. Write to your Federal MPs telling them you want animal cruelty legislation strengthened. Remind them that Bill C 22 was actually passed by the House of Commons, then stalled in the Senate until it died when the last Federal Election was called. Tell them **THIS WILL NOT DO**. Ask them **WHEN** they are going to do something. Ask them what help an MP needs by way of support to get things done. Ask if they have a contact list of people in the industry who do not want change, who could benefit from receiving information as to why there is an urgent need for change.
3. If an election is called please attend as many candidate's meetings as you can and ask the individual candidates their views and what their policy is on animal cruelty legislation. Make them understand that this is an extremely important matter to a great number of voters.

FREE FILM FEST FEATURES!

Four films will be presented at CETFA's Animal Voices Film Fest on June 5, 2005. A brief description of each one follows:

"**PEACEABLE KINGDOM**", a Tribe of Heart documentary, our main film, is described in detail on page 4 of this newsletter.

"**ANIMALS ANGELS**" A 30 minute documentary by this dedicated group from Germany, who, in 2003, spent four months trailing Canadian food animal transport trucks to their destinations.

"**FARM ANIMALS AND US**" - a 16 minute documentary from South Africa. Cape Town is the first city in Africa to include the rights of animals in its policy statements. This film shows how pigs can operate computers and rescue a drowning child as well as how chickens can learn from watching TV!

"**CARING CLASSROOMS**" is a 15 minute documentary, also produced in Cape Town where humane education has been included in the curriculum of some Cape schools. This film is said to rekindle the spirit of compassion in a violent society and is a method to teach care and respect for life.

THANK YOU, KARL!

We are very fortunate to have Karl Losken on CETFA's Board of Directors. We thank him for giving so generously of his time and effort and for being instrumental in organizing the Film Fest. Karl has been active with Earthsave Canada and with that excellent radio program "Animal Voices" which airs weekly on FM 102.7 at 4 p.m. on Mondays with a repeat at noon on Fridays. His knowledge and experience are invaluable. Karl introduced us to Peaceable Kingdom, the Sanctuary they have created and the amazing work they do.

PEACEABLE KINGDOM - a very special documentary feature at Animal Voices Film Fest.



"At a time when the public is more concerned than ever about the health and environmental problems associated with large-scale factory farming, *Peaceable Kingdom* explores another angle of this unfolding story: the interconnected life journeys of farm animals, former farmers and animal rescuers struggling against an out of control industrial system.

"Breaking generations of silence in the farm community, *Peaceable Kingdom* weaves together themes of respect, forgiveness, commitment and healing, offering a vision of a more peaceful world that is well within our reach." - Tribe of Heart Documentary

Peaceable Kingdom opens with peaceful scenes of what farming could and should be like. Young people are seen interacting with animals and then Lorri Bauston talks about a goat that they had rescued - crippled for life by abuse and neglect. Lorri is a woman with the courage to feel emotion and quietly share it with the viewers as does her husband, Gene. Lorri points out how upbringing changes the warmth and kindness children would normally feel towards animals because they are made to feel that the callous attitudes they witness in

a farm situation is what is required of farmers. Young children cannot cope with the family and peer pressure to conform. Production is all important. A farmer must never be weak. Soon we are shown baby chicks being discarded, then back to poultry that had been rescued at the Sanctuary, then back to thousands of unwanted baby chicks discarded in a dumpsters.

Then back to the Sanctuary where Lorri and Gene give us hope. Rescued pigs are seen enjoying life in the barn and they display the emotions that they show when they are allowed to follow their natural behaviours. Rescued laying hens

walk about and nest.

In this unusual presentation of facts, there are calm, objective descriptions of emotional experiences that caused a farmer's perception to change. It traces the real life experiences of *Howard Lyman* who transformed the small organic family farm into a huge, very successful, modern, money making feedlot business - until a brush with ill health and an operation from which he might not have recovered enables him to observe the animals he raised in another light. His own experiences lead to an awareness of the emotional needs in an animal's life, and the torment induced by both physical and emotional deprivation, now accepted as routine in the process of factory farming.

As the film switches between scenes of relaxed animals enjoying the freedom to behave as nature intended and the heartless deprivation, injury and deaths of young animals including any "unwanted products" in the system of modern factory farming, **the enormity and the scale of the horrors of modern meat production** begin to dawn on the viewer.

This is what we allow to take place in our time. This is what our governments allow and protect. This is what our tax money subsidizes. This is what our privacy laws hide and defend for big corporations. This is what happens when pressures to produce dehumanize farmers and low paid, untrained animal handlers.

The impact of giant, mega international corporations has obliterated decency, sensitivity and caring.

No thought is given to the small time caring farmer who cannot compete or survive.

Can this film bring into our consciousness the extent to which deprivation, torment and torture on an unprecedented scale takes place right in our midst?

FREE FILM FEST SCHEDULE

Sunday June 5th 2005 at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre

Doors open at 1.00 p.m.	5.10 p.m. 20 minute intermission, refreshments in Reception Area
1.30 p.m. Introduction to film fest and Sponsors (Anthony Fulker)	Introduction to film fest and Sponsors (Anthony Fulker)
1.40 p.m. Farm Animals and Us (20 minutes)	5.30 p.m. Farm Animals and Us (20 minutes)
2.05 p.m. Caring Classrooms (17 minutes)	6.05 p.m. Caring Classrooms (17 minutes)
2.20 p.m. Patricia Oswald introduction to CETFA and the Animals'Angels Documentary (30 minutes)	6.25 p.m. Animals Angels (introduction to CETFA and Patricia Oswald)
3.00 p.m. Intermission and tabling in reception area (30 minutes)	7.00 p.m. 30 minute intermission
3.30 p.m. Peaceable Kingdom and Dana Lyons	7.30 p.m. Peaceable Kingdom and Dana Lyons followed by short Q & A.
	Close at 9.00 p.m.

AGM

CETFA's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 28th, 2005 at 6 p.m. at #203, 5455 West Boulevard, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3W5



Canadians for Ethical Treatment of Food Animals

Annual Membership \$10.00

Application for New ___ Renewal ___ Membership

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

We believe that animals raised for food should have a pain and stress free life and a humane death.

I might be able to help with:

- Writing Letters
- Assisting at information tables
- Maintaining Website

Please make your membership fee payable to:

Canadians for Ethical Treatment of Food Animals
Box 18024, 2225 West 41 Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6M 4L3

CETFA cannot give tax receipts because we choose not to be a registered charity due to restrictions on what we could do.

CETFA'S PURPOSE

CETFA is a volunteer society whose purpose is to promote the humane treatment of animals raised for food. We work towards the compassionate treatment of food animals so that their lives may be free from pain and fear, followed by a humane death.

CETFA'S GOAL

CETFA's goal is to provide accurate, factual information about Canada's Food Industry and to educate the public about the horrendous cruelty which has become "accepted practice" in the factory farming industry.