

WMFA NEWSLETTER

October/November, 1995

Publication of: WEST MICHIGAN FOR ANIMALS, 139 Langdon NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503; E-Mail: kimvndlaan@aol.com

FUR FREE FRIDAY

Fur season is back as usual! But WMFA is ready for those who wear the carcasses of animals! (Of course, we can't forget those ugly little fur-trimmed hoods!)

WMFA has already hit Hudson's Department Store in Woodland Mall. We protested the store on September 25, during their initial fur sale. (Incidentally, Hudson's Winter Catalog contains a page which advertises fur. Please call: 1-800-282-2450, to protest.)

Fur Free Friday (always the day after Thanksgiving) is quickly approaching! You can participate by protesting against any fur-wearers in Detroit's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Don't be afraid to make comments about people who wear fur (including the fact that fur makes them look fat!)

Cole Dorsey, our Anti-Fur Committee chairman, is attempting to organize events at all four Grand Rapids fur stores (a never-before-accomplished feat!) The different events will be scheduled at different times, but volunteers are needed. Who has Friday off? A tentative schedule includes: A Walk Through Woodland Mall (Hudson's) with a banner stating, "I'd rather go naked than wear fur," A Press Conference, A Picket (Cascade Fur Salon), A Candle-Light Vigil and Walk from Leigh's Fur Salon to Jacobson's. Cole will contact members prior to these events with a finalized schedule.

For more information regarding anti-fur events, please call Cole Dorsey, 285-8163.

Please help spread the word, "COMPASSION IS THE FASHION!"

PETA Action Line Alerts

(7, August 1995)

by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Questions and comments should be directed to: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, P.O. Box 42516, Washington DC 20015-0516 301-770-PETA

Support the European Ban on Importing Leghold-Trapped Fur

The Chancellor Of Germany, Helmut Kohl, has been given a tour of rural Canada (home to most trappers) in an attempt to win his support for the dismantling of the European Union's ban on furs from animals caught in leghold traps. As usual, those with an interest in promoting the drowning, beating, and trapping of animals for their fur will stop at nothing to sell their furs to Europe.

In an attempt to win Mr. Kohl's support, he was given a tour of native communities who the Government of Canada says, need trapping to survive. It is not surprising that Mr. Kohl did not meet those native groups opposed to trapping, including Native Animal Brotherhood who question why the Government of Canada believes that the only way of life for natives people is trapping & skinning animals.

Please write to Mr. Kohl & let him know that as a North American you support the ban on furs from animals caught in leghold traps into Europe.

Write to:

Chancellor Helmut Kohl
Embassy of the Republic of Germany
4645 Reservoir NW
Washington, DC 20017-1998

DOVE HUNTING BILL SHOT DOWN IN MID-FLIGHT

(Excerpts from *The Detroit News*)

The controversial dove hunting legislation introduced last May by Senator Philip Hoffman, R-Horton, has been soundly defeated. Despite the Michigan United Conservation Clubs' claim that dove hunting is "a wholesome sport," the mourning dove will continue to enjoy its status as a protected songbird in Michigan instead of being reclassified as a game bird.

State Representative Mick Middaugh, R-Paw Paw, Chairman of the House Conservation, Environment, and Great Lakes Committee, has been besieged by 5,275 calls, letters, and postcards on the issue. 92% of those communications represented opposition to a dove hunting season in Michigan. Himself a hunter, Middaugh, said, "I've never seen anything like this in my seven terms in the legislature. I think it's clear [that] there is not a great deal of support for this, even among some callers and writers who identify themselves as NRA members."

A poll of 600 Michigan voters found that 54% are opposed to the measure while 28% support it. The rest are undecided.

On September 22nd, a press release was issued from Representative Middaugh's office. In it he stated that, "The people have made their views crystal clear. Many interest groups have been involved in lobbying the legislature, but the people of Michigan, who overwhelmingly said NO to dove hunting, are the ones who influenced the final decision."

Let's revel in our most recent victory! See what we've accomplished!

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY: CRUEL & DIRTY

Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceutical Company manufactures the hormone, Premarin, which is used as a post-menopausal drug and in some oral contraceptives.

Premarin is made with the urine of pregnant mares. The horses are kept pregnant year round so they will produce estrogen which is excreted in the urine. They are confined to extremely small stalls and fitted with catheters. The catheter bags chafe the mares' legs to the point of leaving bloody, raw, open sores. The horses are not allowed freedom. They bear foal after foal. When they can no longer be kept pregnant, they are slaughtered.

You can voice your opposition to this appalling cruelty. Please call Wyeth-Ayerst at 1-800-999-9384. If you take Premarin, discuss other options with your doctor. There are synthetic hormones such as OgeEn available. Most doctors are usually cooperative in changing prescriptions when made aware that the primary ingredient in Premarin is horse urine.

CORRECTIONS

October 2 was "World Farm Animal Day" not "Meat Out Day". I inadvertently mistook the two in the October edition of the newsletter. Also I wrote that the "A Carriage Affair" demos were to end in mid-October. They will continue into the Christmas season if there are enough volunteers. I apologize for the misinformation.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday, November 5: NEXT MEETING will be held at The Institute for Global Education, 1400-B Lake Drive, SE, Grand Rapids (between Fuller and Wealthy). Social Hour begins at 5:00 pm, the Meeting begins at 6:00 pm. Please call 459-1982 for directions.

All Fridays and Saturdays until Christmas: Volunteers are needed to PICKET CARRIAGE AFFAIR from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm. (You can volunteer for any number of nights and any amount of time.) Call Herb Seamons, 459-1982 for more info.

Saturday, October 28: HALLOWEEN PET PHOTOS held at Pets Supplies Plus on Alpine from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. We will set up an Animal Rights Education Table for the public. Proceeds will be donated to West Michigan Wildlife Rescue.

Saturdays, December 2, and 9: CHRISTMAS PET PHOTOS (with SANTA) held at Pet Supplies Plus in Holland from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. We need help for this one! Please contact Herb Seamons, 459-1982 to volunteer.

NEWSLETTER STAFF: Volunteers are needed to contribute articles, help distribute newsletters, and help sell ad space. Please contact Kim VanderLaan, 698-9741 to volunteer.

VOLUNTEERS: Always needed for pickets, fund raisers, and other events. If interested, please call Herb Seamons, 459-1982 or Robin Cleaves, 774-4091.

CHOOSE THE NEWSLETTER TITLE!

The generic title of "Newsletter" is too bland and nondescriptive to continue to represent West Michigan For Animals. Therefore we are beginning a contest to find a better, permanent title. Please submit your title suggestion on a piece of paper (handwritten is fine) by the December meeting either in person or by mail. The winner will have his/her suggestion used on future issues of our newsletter, and be credited in the first issue bearing the new title!

I NEED A HOME!

I am a miniature cocker spaniel girl. I was spoiled and loved all my life until my companion had a baby of her own. I am three years old. I do have accidents and I need lots of love and work. I spent eight days in the shelter and now I temporarily reside at the Wayland Foster Home for Animals. Is there someone who is willing to provide the love and patience that I need to make the transition into a good permanent home?

If you are interested in this sweet little dog, please call Kollinda Scott at 792-9363.



FROM "K-9 KOMPANIONS"

Adoptions offering 1/2 off cost to spay/neuter to responsible homes...

In the last newsletter we had a gentle soul that needed a caring family. Here's the update:

"My name is 'Bo.' I'm a black lab mix that was left in the forest to die. Some people cared enough to help me. I am well now and have gained a good 20 - 25 pounds. I'm neutered and have all my shots and am in a new home. I have another K-9 to play with and I have a fenced yard so I'm not ever chained up. Mostly, I'm an inside K-9 Kompanion, love to watch TV, and chew rawhides on the couch with my new family. I smile all the time and am happy now!

Do you know someone that has a dog or cat that isn't spayed or neutered? Tell them to call 1-800-248-SPAY. They will receive a low-cost certificate through the mail. They can take it to a local vet in their area. The Coit Animal Clinic is the participating office in Grand Rapids.

Did you know? Each day in the United States; 10,000 humans are born, and 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. As a result, millions of healthy, loving cats, dogs, kittens, and puppies face early deaths as a form of animal control. Others are left to fend for themselves against automobiles, the elements, other animals, and cruel humans. What can you do to stop the suffering? SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS! Get the word out to your family, friends, and co-workers. Call: 1-800-248-SPAY!

An unsprayed female cat, her mate, and all their offspring, producing 2 litters per year (with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter) can total:

1 Year	12
2 Years	67
3 Years	376
4 Years	2,107
5 Years	11,801
6 Years	66,088
7 Years	370,092
8 Years	2,072,514
9 Years	11,606,077

For more information about K-9 Kompanions, contact: Cyndie Kott at 363-0209.



West Michigan For Animals
139 Langdon NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

PROCTOR & GAMBLE DEMOS

At this time, we don't have any information regarding the recent demonstrations at Proctor and Gamble' Annual Shareholders' Meeting. We do know that West Michigan was represented by Kalamazoo Animal Liberation League (KALL) who handed out literature on October 10.

The public has been asked to boycott P&G due to their continued policies of animal testing for various products. In Defense of Animals had asked that the public send P&G coupons to them so they could be presented to the management at P&G's Shareholders' Meeting to demonstrate the strength of the boycott.

It's not too late to help. Please continue to clip P&G coupons, but Don't use them! Send them back to Proctor and Gamble with "Boycott companies that test on animals" written across them. Sooner or later, through public pressure, Proctor and Gamble will be forced to join such companies as Dial, Revlon, Avon, Benetton, and Neutrogena, and STOP THE ANIMAL TESTING!

EU Ban on Trapped Animal Fur Needs Your Support

by The Fur-Bearer Defenders

Representatives from the fur trade along with special-interest favoring government officials in the US and Canada, are pulling out all stops in a last-ditch attempt to pressure the European Union (EU) to back down on the pending ban on leghold trapped animal fur, scheduled to take effect January 1996. Letters and faxes are desperately needed now to key decision makers to urge them not to cave into pressure from a minority of special interest groups.

Regulation 3254/91, passed by the EU in 1991, will ban fur imports from countries still using the leghold traps as of January unless the trap is outlawed or an alternative trapping method deemed "humane" is approved. Although more than 65 countries have banned the leghold trap, it is still the most widely used trap in the United States and Canada, causing agonizing death for millions of animals each year. Animals caught in leghold traps may suffer in terror for days and will sometimes chew off their own feet to escape. Since these traps cannot be selective, "non-target" victims such as endangered species or pets, considered "trash animals" can get caught in the trap's steel jaws. For those who do not freeze to death or become the defenseless victim of another predator, they will find their fate when the trapper returns to "finish the job" by strangulation, bludgeoning, or shooting.

The ban was originally scheduled to go into effect January 1995. But, pressure from the fur industry caused a postponement until January 1996. Because Europeans purchase from 70% to 80% of American furs, it is easy to see why this Regulation is so vitally important to animals in this country. The effects could be tremendous. Millions could be spared agonizing death.

What you can do:

This ban is in jeopardy of being delayed, if the well-financed minority of fur trade representatives get their way. Letters are urgently needed now to:

Mr. Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission: (Mr. Jacques Santer, President, European Commission, 35/45 Ave. d'Auderghem, Brussels, Belgium 1048, Fax: 32-2-296-5009). Urge the Commissioner not to further delay implementation of Regulation 3254/91. Let him know that according to a Yale University study, 78% of Americans oppose the use of leghold traps altogether. Convey to him that Americans support the European peoples' courageous and historic stand to stop leghold suffering and cruelty and that the Regulation should be implemented in January of 1996.

US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor: (Ambassador Mickey Kantor, US Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC, 20506) Ambassador Kantor is opposing the European Regulation. Tell him that it is time the US joined the rest of the civilized world and banned the leghold trap in our own country. It is reported that Kantor is bowing down to fur industry pressure and joining Canadian international trade minister Malcolm McLaren in declaring the Regulation "an unfair trading practice" under GATT provisions. Both trade ministers have threatened to challenge the Regulation through the World Trade Organization (the governing body of the GATT) if it goes through. Tell Mr. Kantor that the great majority of Americans support the ban and that it was overwhelmingly passed in 1991 by the European Parliament, the Commission, and the Council because of strong public demands to prevent the agony animals suffer in these cruel traps. Urge him not to file a GATT action against this enlightened European Regulation.

Letters are also needed to your Congressional representatives (Your Representative, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; Your Senator, US Senate, Washington, DC 20515). Urge your members of Congress to tell Ambassador Kantor to stop opposing European Regulation No. 3254/91. Tell them the United States will be disgraced if Ambassador Kantor succeeds in his opposition. (And while you're writing to your Representatives, urge them to co-sponsor H.R. 1404 which would prohibit the steel-jaw leghold trap nationwide).

Write your letters today! Tomorrow may be too late.

For more information please contact: The Fur-Bearer Defenders, P.O. Box 188950, Sacramento, CA 95822. E-mail (furbearers@igc.apc.org)

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