

animal

WRITES

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VOLUME 50 SUMMER 2011



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The Wait is Over for Improved Egg Labelling

THE OVERWATEA FOOD GROUP SETS PRECEDENT IN TESTING “EGGS FROM CAGED HENS” LABEL

The Overwatea Food Group (OFG) will become the first grocery chain in Canada to implement an in-store “Eggs from Caged Hens” label. The breakthrough decision follows discussions with VHS in which the need for more comprehensive labelling of ALL egg types was proposed.

The new in-store signage will be tested this summer at two Save-On-Foods locations: the store at 7th & Cambie in Vancouver and the store on Lakeside Drive in Nelson.

The labels and signage will explain the difference between free-run, free-range and certified organic eggs, and also indicate which eggs come from caged hens. Polls show that most consumers oppose the intensive confinement of hens in cages—yet more than 95 per cent of eggs continue to be produced in this manner.

“The voluntary introduction of an ‘Eggs from Caged Hens’ label is truly unique,” said Leanne McConnachie, Director for the Vancouver Humane Society’s ChickenOUT! campaign. *“Polls show that the majority of consumers are willing to pay more for cage-free eggs, but when they get to the store, many still choose the regular eggs from caged hens. Perhaps they see the label “farm fresh” and “natural” and think this means the birds were raised on pasture, but that’s simply not the case. It will be interesting to see if this new label will remind them of the choice they are about to make, and if it will influence their purchasing decisions.”*

Stores will be tracking egg sales before and after the pilot project to see if the new labels impact purchasing patterns. If the results show that consumers appreciate the in-store education, OFG will consider similar signage at additional stores.

“We are always pleased to have the opportunity to provide information and choices to customers,” said Ken Clark, General Manager of Fresh for the Overwatea Food Group. *“If the consumer says they want more cage-free eggs, we will work hard with our partners in the egg industry to meet those needs.”*

Mandatory disclosure labelling of “eggs from caged hens” has already been implemented throughout the European Union and Australia, but not in North America. VHS has collected close to 7000 signatures from people saying they want to see mandatory labelling. These results were echoed in VHS’s 2010 Harris/Decima poll, where 78 per cent of Canadians said they support a requirement to label cartons containing eggs from hens raised in battery cages as ‘eggs from caged hens’.



BEATROUTE Stampede Breakfast

SATURDAY JULY 9TH
2:00PM TO 1:00AM
CHAPEL ARTS, 304 DUNLEVY
AVENUE, VANCOUVER

SUPPORT VHS AND PARTY AT "STAMPEDE BREAKFAST"

Want to show your support for local arts as well as VHS's campaign against rodeo cruelty? Mark the BeatRoute 'Stampede Breakfast' on your calendar! BeatRoute Magazine, Western Canada's premiere arts and entertainment monthly, is hosting this first annual benefit for VHS on Saturday, July 9.

Stampede season is approaching, and

what better way to draw attention to VHS's Calgary Stampede Campaign than bringing the community together with live bands, libations, and an ethically-sourced vegetarian breakfast? Party your way to some good karma this summer, with all proceeds going to VHS.

Event highlights include a full afternoon and evening of live music, a scrumptious meal, local beer garden, a full bar and vendor and activity booths, a Chilliwack corn roast on the patio, and much more!

Discounted Pre-Sale tickets will be available at record stores in Vancouver and The River Vintage (1748 Commercial Drive) soon.

A limited number of tickets will be held at the door

For more information on this and other BeatRoute events, go to:

www.facebook.com/beatroutebc

The BeatRoute Stampede Breakfast is now recruiting volunteers for a variety of positions leading up to, and on the day of the event. If you would like to help, please contact:

Erin Stainsby, Volunteer Coordinator
volunteers@beatroute.ca

A variety of monetary and in-kind sponsorships are available, as well as vendor booth rentals.

For all sponsorship inquiries, please contact:

Claire Desmarais
Events & Marketing Coordinator
claire@beatroute.ca

Chicken Out! Update

CONSUMERS WANT EGGS FROM HAPPIER HENS

Chat n' Chew n' Cage-Free!

The new **Slickety Jim's** now serves only cage-free eggs

In November of 2009, **Slickety Jim's Chat n' Chew Restaurant** at Broadway and Main went up in flames and burned to the ground. But just over a year later, owner Mike Zalman has rebuilt both the building and the menu at his famous Chat n' Chew, including a switch to Rabbit River's free-range and free-run eggs.

"Any restaurant worth its salt is taking a more ethical and responsible approach to their operations and their menu," said Zalman. "When VHS asked if we'd consider switching to cage-free eggs, it was an easy decision for us to make. I think that people just expect a restaurant on Main Street to have free-range eggs now."

The new restaurant is located at 3469 Main Street, just 10 blocks south of the old location.

Other restaurants that have recently joined the cage-free movement include:

The Irish Heather GastroPub and the

Salty Tongue Cafe in Gastown use organic eggs in every menu item that requires eggs, such as the Croque Madame, their breakfast sandwiches, and even to make their fresh daily pasta;

Motomachi Shokudo, a sushi restaurant on Denman, uses organic eggs exclusively to produce a special soup dish in which the egg is soft boiled;

Kranky Café, at East 4th and Main, uses free range/organic eggs in all their baked goods.

To request a list of the more than 100 restaurants now using cage-free eggs, send us an email to info@chickenout.ca or call the office.

P.S.: The VHS team has already kicked off our summer outreach activities. Check our website or call our office for details on which farmers' markets and community festivals we'll be attending. And, we are ALWAYS in need of volunteers to help staff our displays! Call us if you can help out.

Loblaws Commits to Cage-Free Eggs

At the Loblaws AGM meeting in early May, President Galen Weston announced

that Loblaws will be transitioning all their President's Choice brand eggs to cage-free eggs by the end of 2011. Their commitment is referenced under their "Source with Integrity" objective in their 2010 Corporate Social Responsibility Report, which was recently released to shareholders. Congratulations Loblaws!

VHS would also like to congratulate our colleagues at Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals and the Humane Society of the US for their dedication over the past two years in educating the Loblaws team about cage-free alternatives and encouraging them to make the switch. Well done!

If you would like to write Galen Weston and show your support for his decision, please write:

Galen G. Weston
Executive Chairman
Loblaw Companies
Companies Ltd.
1 President's
Choice Circle
Brampton, ON
L6Y 5S5



VHS to fight sled dog tethering

VHS was disappointed that the provincial government did not ban sled dog operations when the Sled Dog Task Force released its report in April. Instead it strengthened B.C.'s animal cruelty laws and promised to create new "mandatory care standards" for sled dogs. A government working group has been set up to determine the nature of those standards.

Despite our disappointment, VHS is certain our joint campaign with LUSH cosmetics helped push the government to take stronger measures than would otherwise have been the case. (The task force report described it as a "well-orchestrated" campaign.) We would like to express our sincere thanks to LUSH for their generous support of the campaign. (In addition to supporting animal causes, LUSH practices what it preaches and uses only cage-free eggs from Richmond-based Rabbit River farms in their cosmetics.)

Our objective now is to encourage the government's working group to introduce the best possible mandatory care standards for sled dogs. One positive development is that the BC SPCA will be tasked with enforcing these standards, just as it enforces the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The question now is: Will the new standards be good enough?

For VHS, one of the biggest issues is the tethering of sled dogs for long hours when they are not working. This is clearly detrimental to the dogs' welfare and VHS will be making this point in a submission to the working group, along with other concerns.

The BC SPCA/RCMP investigation into the horrific slaughter of sled dogs in Whistler was ongoing as we went to press and we hope it will achieve justice for the dogs. In the meantime, we must not forget the thousands of sled dogs still working in poor conditions. If the government will not ban sled dog businesses, it must at least address the foremost risks to the dogs' welfare.



HELP END RODEO CRUELTY

VHS needs your help in its continuing campaign to end calf-roping at the Calgary Stampede and rodeos throughout Canada.

For the past two years, VHS's campaign has drawn public attention to the plight of calves and other rodeo animals used by the Stampede. More people than ever are aware of the cruelty involved in rodeo. Now that awareness needs to be turned into action

Telecommunications company Bell Canada remains a major sponsor of the rodeo at the Stampede and has refused to acknowledge concerns over animal welfare. Please help by writing to Bell's chief executive at:

Mr. George Cope, Chief Executive Officer

Bell Canada
1 Carrefour Alexander Graham Bell
Verdun, Quebec H3E 3B3
Or email: bcecomms@bce.ca

For a list of additional Stampede sponsors contact Lauren at lauren@vancouverhumansociety.bc.ca or call 604 266 9744.

To urge the Stampede to drop calf-roping, letters can be sent to:

Vern Kimball, Chief Executive Officer

Calgary Stampede
Box 1060, Station M,
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2K8
Or email: vkimball@calgarystampede.com

This year's Calgary Stampede will be held July 8-17. Check our website for information and please encourage friends and family to complain to the Stampede and Bell Canada.

Thanks to **Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Food Animals (CEFTA)** for their generous support of our rodeo campaign.



VHS executive director Debra Probert (left) helped lead a joint VHS/LUSH Cosmetics march in downtown Vancouver in March, urging a ban on sled dog operations. Another march took place in Victoria. Both events attracted media attention to the plight of sled dogs, especially the issue of tethering the dogs for long periods.

From the Desk of the Executive Director:

TOUGH TIMES, BUT VHS SUPPORTERS WILL PULL US THROUGH

You may have noticed that our newsletter is a little shorter than usual. VHS's revenue has been down for the last couple of years. You, our donors, have been very generous; however, one-third of our operating budget each year is bequest income, of which there has been none for a while. That, combined with the economic downturn (meaning interest income has declined precipitously) has us trying to find other sources of revenue while cutting costs wherever we can. The one thing we

don't want to do is cut back on any of our important programs for animals.

One of our new initiatives is our participation in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge 5K and half-marathon, taking place in Vancouver on June 26th. This is a very exciting opportunity for us, not only for the funding, but for the potential exposure. As I write this, we have raised nearly \$6000 and we're in fifth place amongst 40 charities – not too shabby for a small organization like VHS!!

Our goal is \$10,000 and, at this point, I'm really hoping we can exceed that. You can help either by participating in the run and raising money for VHS by begging your friends and family to sponsor you: <http://tinyurl.com/4xz26ea> or by supporting our VHS team with a donation: <http://tinyurl.com/3c9qjop>.

If you would like to sponsor me, Debra Probert, <http://tinyurl.com/3fcwghn> - a generous (and anonymous) donor has committed to doubling whatever I can raise

to the amount of \$2000!!

We've had some exceptional support this year – from you, our donors, and from businesses and other non-profits. One example is our McVitie Fund Challenge Grant. In April we appealed to you to help us reach our goal of \$20,000, which was to be matched by the Irene Joy Stewart and Florence Maud Shedden Endowment for Domestic and Wild Animal Welfare. You came through! Within weeks we had reached our goal – that meant \$40,000 for emergency animal care.

I want you to know that you are the backbone of VHS. You're part of our team – we simply could not be as effective as we are without you. The animals depend on us, and we depend on you. Thank you for your support, now and in the future. As you can see elsewhere in this newsletter, together we are really making a difference for animals!

Debra Probert



Wedding "favours" VHS

Catherine Chen and Jay Lin had a unique idea for helping animals at the same time they celebrated their marriage on May 21, 2011.

They put a VHS card on each table, indicating that they had given VHS a donation in lieu of wedding favours.

**THANK YOU, CATHERINE AND JAY,
& CONGRATULATIONS!**



DONATIONS & THANK YOUs

MEMORIAL

Thank you to the following people who have honoured the memory of loved ones with a gift to help animals:

Jackie Weiler, in memory of Sylvie;
John Harrison, in memory of Simon;
Hinda Avery in memory of Priscilla;
Sinee Theys, in memory of the tragic deaths of the sled dogs in Whistler;
Mary Auerbach, in memory of Priscilla and Bertie;
Anonymous, in memory of Lillian Jean Svendsen;
Drew and Yani, in memory of Majuba;
Sheri Charles in memory of Misty;
Susan Bracken in memory of David Stovel;
Ilse Wickord, in memory of Mitzi.

Thank you for the following donations in honour of that special someone:

Laura Duhan Kaplan, in honour of Susan Karovitch;
Anonymous in honour of Mairin Barclay;
Lola Merenda in honour of Barbara Wrinkle;
Rob Whitzman, in honour of Pebbles Oord;
Shaun Dadd, in honour of Janis Dadd on Mother's Day;
Anonymous, in honour of Janis Dadd on Mother's Day;
Wendy & Mark Warren, in honour of Paul & Kari Van Camp;
June Humphrey, in honour of Olive Edmonds.

Thank you to the following businesses that have supported our work:

Three Dog Bakery (provided doggy treats for LUSH & VHS's Stepping against Sledding event);
Indesigns Website Design, who hosts the VHS websites at no cost;
Kama Natural Soap (provides financial support).

CORPORATE AND EMPLOYEE DONATIONS

The following four companies stand out for their financial support of the animals we here at VHS work so hard to help.

A huge thank you to the **Vancity Community Foundation** and the *Leo and Francis Longo Fund for Charity to Animals* for a \$10,000 grant to our Chicken OUT!

project. Their tremendous support will help pay for our vitally important outreach activities including booth displays at public events and letters to individuals, farmers and businesses encouraging them to adopt cage-free egg purchasing policies.

The employees and retirees at **TELUS** are incredible! TELUS recognizes the volunteer efforts of their staff through their Dollars for Doers program. For every 200 hours of volunteer work done in the community, TELUS donates \$500 to a registered charity of the employee's choice! Our sincere gratitude to **Saundra Keayes** and **Patricia Foster**, and to TELUS for being a good corporate employer and citizen!!

The employees at **BC HYDRO** are equally amazing! They support charities through the HYDRECS fund – and VHS is one of the lucky organizations that benefits. A sincere thank you goes out to these employees and to BC HYDRO, which covers all of the administration costs for the donors.

LUSH Cosmetics – you're the best! LUSH sold their special PAWS and Listen soap with all proceeds going to VHS and our sled dog and animals in entertainment projects. It added up to over \$15,000! Our deep gratitude to LUSH for aligning their corporate goals with the ethical treatment of animals.

Non-Profit and Charitable Organizations who provide support:

Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Food Animals, for their major financial support of Chicken OUT! and our Calgary Stampede campaign;

Humane Society International/Canada, for major financial support of the Chicken OUT! Project;

The James A. and Donna-Mae Moore Foundation:
The Irene Joy Stewart and Florence Maud Shedden Endowment for Domestic and Wild Animal Welfare for the Challenge grant of \$20,000 for our McVitie Fund for emergency animal help.

Fishing's devastating consequences

THIS ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE VANCOUVER SUN ONLINE IN MAY, 2011

The dramatic rescue of Donald the eaglet on Vancouver Island has shed light on a problem that most people don't think much about – the issue of "ghost fishing".

Donald, a young eaglet, had a leg tangled in fishing line. It's speculated that the fishing line arrived in his nest via a salmon brought up to the nest as food by the parents. Over time, and as millions of people watched via 'Eagle Cam', Donald's leg became increasingly tangled. Public pressure grew for an intervention to free him from this potentially deadly situation.

It so happened that as this drama unfolded, I had in my hands a 2010 document called "Worse things happen at sea: the welfare of wild-caught fish" by Alison Mood (www.fishcount.org.uk). This report serves to draw attention to the welfare of fish in commercial fishing and offer practical solutions. One serious problem it refers to is that of ghost fishing – a reference to the uncalculated number of fish, marine turtles, birds and mammals that become tangled in nets and other fishing paraphernalia that have been lost at sea, but continue to wreak havoc on wildlife.

Commercial fishing is not pretty, and there are many methods used to catch the most fish with the least amount of time and effort. For instance, the gill net is a wall of netting that's invisible to fish as it hangs in the sea. It's designed so that as fish of a certain size swim into the net, their heads can fit through the holes, but their bodies cannot. When they reverse to escape, their gills become entangled – the more they struggle, the more trapped they become. They can remain this way for hours or even days before they are hauled aboard ship and killed. Also, marine turtles, birds and mammals can get tangled in the nets and drown. When a gill-net sinks to the bottom and is lost, it can go on trapping fish for months or even years.

Of course, gill nets are not the only gear that can be lost at sea. Other fishing methods like trawling (dragging a bag-shaped net through the water, chasing fish and then gathering them up when they're exhausted) and purse seining (a long wall of netting that is drawn into a circle, enclosing a school of fish) can result in loss of netting, which becomes a death trap for untold numbers of fish. Pole and line fishing, either for commercial or sport purposes, can leave behind nearly indestructible fishing line, which when

swallowed by fish can result in serious injury or death. And as we've seen with Donald, the destruction of wildlife often continues on land.

Even if your compassion stops at sea level, the harm to wildlife like Donald is not the only thing to be concerned about. Globally, commercial overfishing is destroying fish stocks faster than they can be replenished. And fish farming is not the answer – farmed fish are fed wild fish that are turned into fish meal. According to Alison Mood's report, it takes roughly 14 kg. and, depending on their size, 14 to 1400 wild-caught fish to feed one 4 kg. farmed salmon. This 'fishing down the food chain' not only creates evolutionary pressure that decreases the size of fish, but imperils people in developing countries who now see their traditional food source becoming an export commodity that is financially out of their reach.

There are ways to stop the carnage. Nets, lines, and other fishing equipment that are subject to being lost can be made of biodegradable material. Traps used for fishing can be fitted with time release panels. But this will only happen when fishers and the companies who buy from them are made accountable by consumers.

Let's hope Donald the eaglet can be the impetus for increased awareness about the not so obvious effects of society's voracious appetite for fish.

SFU



THE COVE
The Documentary



THE COVE

and the Connection to Canada
A **FREE** Special Screening and Discussion

Thursday, September 22, 2011, 7-9 pm
Room 1900, SFU Harbour Centre
515 West Hastings, Vancouver, BC

The Centre for Coastal Studies at Simon Fraser University is pleased to present a free special screening of the Academy Award® Winner for Best Documentary of 2009, *THE COVE* with an introduction and discussion by Leah Lemieux, author of *Rekindling The Waters: The Truth About Swimming With Dolphins*.

Leah has been touring extensively in the UK, Canada and the US, lecturing in connection with her book and *The Cove*.

Leah will be available to sign her book from 6:30 - 6:50 pm. Copies will also be available for purchase and signing (\$20).

INFO: www.RekindlingTheWaters.com

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Animal movement's "man in the middle"

NEW BOOK CHARTS ROLLIN'S PRAGMATIC APPROACH

Philosopher Bernard Rollin is sometimes the object of scorn from both animal rights activists and the industries that abuse animals. That's because his pragmatic approach to animal welfare involves considering both points of view: As he says, "It's like you're walking on the yellow lines in the middle of the highway instead of on the sidewalk. You get it from both sides."

Rollin, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University, has spent more than three decades working to improve animal welfare. In his latest book, *Putting the Horse before Descartes*, he describes how he has confronted and engaged with research laboratories, veterinary and medical schools, cattlemen, rodeo competitors and others to advocate an ethical approach to using animals.

The very term "using animals" is anathema to many animal activists,

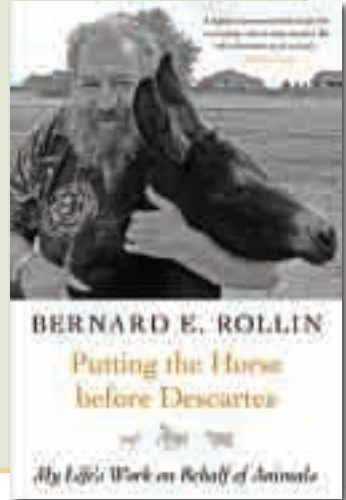
especially in relation to laboratory research. Yet, there is no denying that Rollin has helped end some of the worst practices in these industries and to improve conditions for the animals they use. For example, he was a principal architect of 1985 U.S. federal legislation dealing with the welfare of experimental animals – the first of its kind.

Rollin makes clear his adherence to pragmatism and incrementalism in a rebuke to animal rights philosopher Peter Singer: "*Singer's ethic... provided no way to move animal ethics forward short of abolishing animal use, something most people would not accept.*" In Rollin's view, it is better to push for changes that the average person will accept, given the right ethical pressures.

For example, Rollin is currently trying to convince certain rodeos to introduce a "no jerk-down" rule to calf-roping, rather than ban the event altogether.

While abolitionists will regard this approach as just picking the low hanging fruit and not addressing the fundamental issues, the question remains: Isn't some progress better than no progress?

There is certainly no doubt that Rollin has alleviated the suffering of countless numbers of animals. His efforts, often against monolithic, obstructive and powerful interests, deserve to be recognized. His approach, while not popular with everyone in the animal rights movement, deserves close examination and his book deserves to be read.



4 Good Reasons

why you should remember animals in your will



Helping sick and injured animals.



Speaking out for animals in captivity.



Working hard to get chickens out of cages



Publicly opposing the cruelty of rodeo.

Gifts from wills make up nearly half of VHS's income. We do not receive any government funding and so rely on bequests and donations to fund our work. Without gifts from wills we simply could not continue our work for animals now and in the future. **Please remember us in your will.**

AGAINST ALL ANIMAL CRUELTY!

VHS
www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca



McVitie Fund saves lives

HAPPY ENDINGS FOR COMPANION ANIMALS WHO NEED OUR HELP!



GENTLE GINGER

This adorable little ginger boy came to our attention through RestQ Animal Sanctuary on Galiano Island. He's an FIV+ cat, which means he was particularly hard to place as he shouldn't be with non-infected cats in case he spreads the disease. He was being held at a Leduc, Alberta shelter; they were trying desperately to find him a home, but he was perilously close to being euthanized. Although we don't usually use our email alert list to place animals, if you look at his photo, you can see why we had to make an exception. Happily, someone on the list stepped up and took him, as she already has two FIV+ cats. By the time you get this newsletter, he'll have arrived in his new home! Thanks to Kirby from Saving Animals from Euthanasia (SAFE).

CHEWY

Chewy is a six-year-old Shih Tzu whose desperate guardian had rushed her to the hospital with a severe intestinal infection which they could not afford to treat. "I can't believe this is happening," she sobbed on the phone. "It's been such a terrible time for us. My sister just died, and my husband has cancer and has only weeks to live. We can't lose Chewy – she's everything to us!" When we told her we would help, her sobs of despair changed to tears of joy. Now, Chewy is healthy again, and sleeping at night between her two best friends, right where she should be!



ALICIA

Alicia is a beautiful black and white sweetie who fell off a balcony and suffered severe fractures. Her guardian could not afford the medical care necessary to deal with her injuries. We just couldn't let this little angel die – she's now recovering and resting comfortably.



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Contributing Writers:
Leanne McConnachie, Debra Probert

Design: Susan McFarlane

Printing: *Vancouver Graphics Group*

 Printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink.