

ANIMAL *Writes*

www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca

Volume 42 – Autumn 2008



Space to roam matters to chickens.

Cage-free movement marches on

VHS's **Chicken OUT!** initiative continues to receive tremendous support from B.C.'s municipalities! Thirteen B.C. communities have now adopted resolutions in opposition to battery cage egg production. The latest major city is Victoria! Several other municipalities are currently considering similar initiatives.

You may recall that VHS reported in our last newsletter that the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) would be

considering a resolution to request a provincial ban on battery cages at its annual convention in September.

The resolution, submitted by the City of Pitt Meadows, requests the UBCM membership "to urge the Province of British Columbia to enact measures to ban battery caged egg productions and urge alternate egg production practices that provide humane conditions for laying hens".

This was an unprecedented motion as

the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for a ban on battery egg production and members have not previously considered any resolutions pertaining to animal welfare or egg production.

VHS's Director of Farm Animal Programs, Leanne McConnachie, attended the convention to offer expertise on why egg production methods should even be discussed by councils.

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Science needs common sense in battery hen debate

One look at a battery cage crammed with laying hens would suggest to most people that this system is inhumane and that the hens would be better off in operations in which they are free to engage in their natural behaviours – scratching in the earth, nesting, dust-bathing and so on. VHS certainly believes this is true of certified organic systems, which have the highest welfare standards of any egg production system.

There is also plenty of animal welfare science to support this view. Studies have shown that battery cages cause hens chronic stress from being denied places to nest, perch or even just flap their wings.

Moreover, they suffer physical ailments such as reduced bonestrength (from not being able to move), foot and claw damage from cage floors and feather loss (from abrasion, feather-pecking and stress).

But, not surprisingly, battery egg producers are countering these studies by citing research that appears to support their position. They quote studies indicating that battery cage systems provide hens with bet-

ter protection against parasitic disease. They produce research showing higher mortality rates among hens in outdoor systems, compared to caged hens.

These studies (like all science) are open to challenge but they seem to back the conventional egg industry's argument that there are big welfare advantages to battery cage systems.

Don't be fooled. While it is important to examine the scientific facts on both sides of the debate there is also a need to keep the big picture in mind and to use common sense. The problem with depending purely on one study or another to validate a position on the welfare of laying hens is that the science is often "reductionist" - that is, it simplifies the issue to the point of minimizing, obscuring, or distorting it.

The research cited by the egg industry illustrates this clearly - it may indicate that battery hens are safer, but safety is not the same as well-being, which represents the bigger picture. Imagine keeping a child permanently indoors. He or she would

never be hit by a car or come into contact with contagious diseases, but do those facts indicate a high quality of life?

The capacity an animal has to express natural behaviours, while also not the whole story, is surely the best guide to determining the best welfare conditions for an animal. There is no doubt that battery cages deny hens the ability to engage in natural behaviours, and the science is clear that they suffer frustration and stress as a result. That's inhumane.

The scientific debate about battery cages has come into sharp focus in a battle over Proposition 2, a referendum in California that would outlaw battery cages if passed in November. Both sides are using science to bolster their positions. But perhaps the strongest argument is the one put forward by Wayne Pacelle, CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, who says, "All we're asking is that animals are able to stand up, turn around, lie down and extend their wings. It's the difference between an existence and a life."

DONATIONS

MEMORIAL

Debra & Barry Probert, in memory of Dave, the resident cat at Scottsdale Veterinary Hospital;

Nicholas Read, in memory of Sylvester;

Jamie Lee, in memory of Punky;

Marsha Harris, in memory of Frankie & Lindy;

Sheri A. Charles, in memory of Misty;

Brenda Black, in memory of Gus Reid;

Dr. Margaret Blom, in memory of Spot;

Marc Gelmon, in memory of Ruth Gelmon;

Alfie & Gwendy Williams, in memory of Sandy;

Anonymous, in memory of Scott Magee;

Margo Johnson, in memory of Mervin Ash;

Lucille Lashman, in memory of Janet Ferguson;

Nachiko Yokota, in memory of Hiromi Sugiyama;

Mum & Dad, in memory of Chloe;

Ferne Edmonds, in memory of Bingo;

June Humphreys, in memory of Moxie Hill and Bingo.

SPECIAL OCCASION

Zoe Crane, who received donations to VHS in lieu of presents for her 12th birthday;

Judy Lerner, to welcome her new granddaughter;

Fiona Nicole van der Eerden;

Susan Forbes, to celebrate Anne Gartshore's

birthday;

Princess Rooms Transitional Housing

Program, in thanks to June Humphreys;

Barbara Sommer, to celebrate Sheila Reid's special birthday.

A special thank you to the following businesses that support our work, either with employee donations or in-kind gifts or services:
TELUS, through their Dollars for Dollars Program, where they match employees' donations;

Electronic Arts Canada, in honour of Fusion & The Works Groups;

In-Designs Web Design and Hosting;

Festival Cinemas;

Vancouver International Film Festival & Vancity Theatre;

The Foundation Restaurant;

LUSH West 4th Avenue;

SPUD;

Pacific Theatre;

Telus World of Science;

Elan Records;

Kama Natural Soap;

Remark Design Company;

Harry Somerfeld Masonry;

Arbutus West Animal Hospital;

Atlantic Animal Hospital;

Atlas Animal Hospital North Vancouver;

Atlas Animal Hospital Vancouver;

Blue Cross Pet Hospital Ltd.;

Burton Veterinary Services;

Canada West Veterinary Specialists;

Central City Animal Hospital;

Cloverdale Animal Hospital;

Como Lake Veterinary Hospital;

Cypress St. Animal Hospital;

Delbrook Mall Animal Hospital;

Eagleridge Animal and Bird Hospital;

Haney Animal Hospital;

Hastings St. Animal Hospital;

Metrotown Animal Hospital;

Mundy Austin Animal Hospital;

Newton Animal Hospital;

No. 2 Road Animal Hospital;

North Shore Veterinary Hospital;

Richmond Animal Hospital;

Surrey Animal Hospital;

Vancouver Animal Wellness Hospital;

Vancouver Feline Hospital;

White Rock Veterinary Hospital;

Willowbrook Animal Hospital.

FOUNDATIONS

Vancouver Foundation;

The Irene Joy Stewart and Florence Maud

Shedden Endowment Fund for Domestic and

Wild Animal Welfare held at the Aqueduct

Foundation.

VHS provokes rodeo debate

VHS drew attention to rodeo cruelty in July, targeting the Mighty Fraser Rodeo in Abbotsford, B.C. with a thought-provoking poster and newspaper advertisement.

The ad and poster showed an image of Jesus alongside photos of rodeo animals

in distress, with the text stating:

"The words of Jesus speak of kindness, mercy and compassion. A far cry from the values on display in rodeos, where fear, pain and distress are used to make animals perform for human amusement.

Would Jesus have condoned such brutality for the sake of entertainment? Do you?"

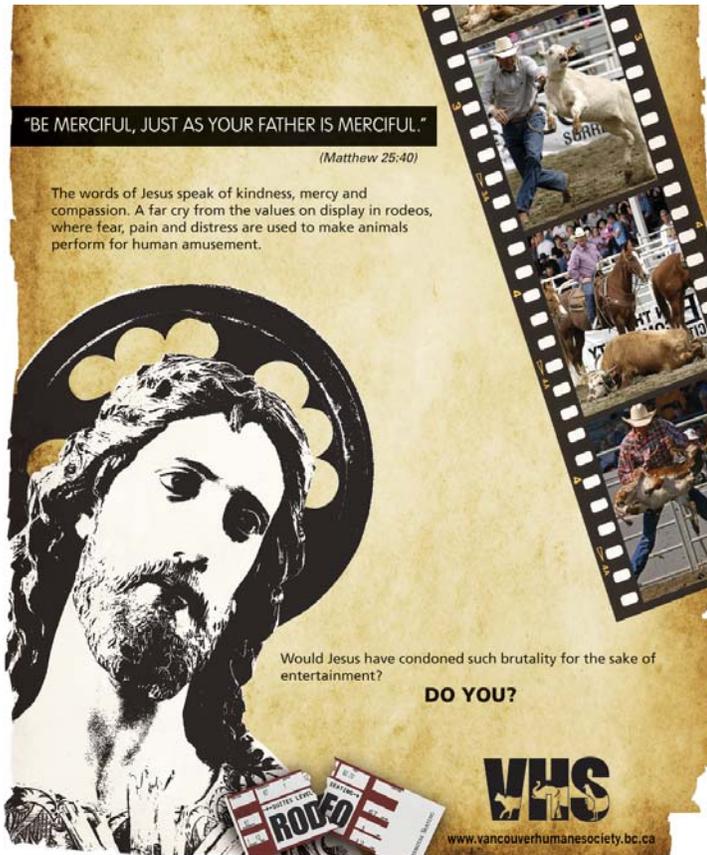
The poster was sent to local churches and was posted throughout the city. Much public debate followed in the news media, with VHS explaining that the ad was designed to provoke thought about the morality of rodeo.

VHS received support from Christian theologians, including Richard Leggett, associate dean of the Vancouver School of Theology, who told the *Globe and Mail*: "There are numerous places in Scripture where cruelty is not acceptable. To hurt

someone or something for one's own pleasure, or once one knows that something one is cruel, one is obliged to cease." He said it was not unreasonable to ask Church-goers to consider whether rodeos mesh with their beliefs.

VHS called on the organizers of the Mighty Fraser Rodeo to drop all roping events from its program. Calf-roping, team-roping, steer-wrestling and wild cow-milking are the most inhumane events and these, at least, should be banned.

Last year, after years of pressure from the humane community, the Cloverdale Rodeo dropped all roping events, a move VHS wants Abbotsford and other rodeos to follow. The absence of these events apparently didn't affect attendance at the Cloverdale Fair, which should encourage other rodeos to make the same changes.



Please write to the sponsors of the Mighty Fraser Rodeo in Abbotsford to urge them to ban roping events. Sponsors are listed on a flyer in this newsletter.

Egg battle rages from BC to California

Continued from front page

"Initially, some municipalities didn't see animal welfare as an issue they should be debating," said McConnachie. "Yet the way our food is produced also affects the environment, our health, land use and property values. Furthermore, the growing consumer demand for local food and initiatives like the 100-mile diet means farming methods are absolutely a matter that city councils need to address."

Unfortunately, with so many resolutions to discuss, delegates ran out of time before they could vote on the battery cage issue. The decision now rests with the UBCM's Executive Committee which will, on behalf of its members, decide

later this year on whether or not to adopt this initiative.

While we continue to move ahead for egg-laying hens in BC and Canada, similar progress is taking place south of the border. On November 4, residents of California will be voting on a state ballot initiative, called Proposition 2, to end the confinement of farm animals. Prop 2 is a modest measure that ends the practice of cramming farm animals (pigs, calves and hens) into cages so small the animals can't even turn around, lie down or extend their limbs. Because egg-production is the predominant animal agriculture in California, this proposition will greatly benefit egg-laying hens if the entire state goes cage-free.

Proposition 2 has been getting LOTS of U.S. media coverage lately, with endorsements from major newspapers such as the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *San Diego Union-Tribune* and many Hollywood celebrities. If any of you are fans of Ellen Degeneres, you may have seen the segment about Prop 2 on her September 26 show with guest Wayne Pacelle, President of the Humane Society of the US.

There is a good chance the measure will be successful, as the results of a state-wide poll shows overwhelming support from voters, with Prop 2 commanding a 62-point lead: 72-10 (18 undecided).

If you have friends and family in California, they can learn more about Prop 2 by visiting: www.yesonprop2.com

Consolidation in the poultry industry an ominous trend . . . for the chickens

By Leanne McConnachie

This article was printed in the Vancouver Sun on June 25, 2008

The world food shortage is the “buzz” these days in the media. However, we should be equally concerned about the shortage of companies that produce food in the first place.

We’ve all heard about consolidation within the beef industry whereby it is controlled by three companies — JBS, Cargill and Tyson. Similarly, Monsanto controls 88 per cent of the genetically modified seed market. In the poultry industry, however, consolidation presents an even more sinister scenario — the propensity for disease proliferation.

Through a series of mergers and acquisitions over the years, all of the world’s turkey breeding and egg-laying stock, and most of the world’s meat chicken stock, now originate from two major corporations — The EW Group (Germany) and Hendrix Genetics (Netherlands.)

I couldn’t help but think back to all the fuss that was made about Microsoft’s near monopoly on operating systems. Yet similar control over the world’s food supply doesn’t even get a sideways glance from governments and politicians.

The economic vulnerability of consumers is obvious. In 2006, chicken represented 33.4 per cent of total meat consumption in Canada, equalling beef. In the United States that same year, chicken was the meat and poultry leader with a 36.4 per-cent share of total meat consumption. These corporations thus have the power to dictate the price for a third of North America’s meals. But more ominous is the genetic vulnerability these giants have inflicted upon poultry that holds the birds, and us, hostage to disease.

How? As with any mass production effort, uniformity in product stock improves the bottom line. The genetic uniformity in poultry has left us with a worldwide stock that lacks the adequate biodiversity to ward off a pandemic. We only have to look back to 2004 when, in

British Columbia, 19 million chickens, turkeys and other birds were culled because of concerns over an avian flu outbreak. The population density of birds within factory farms, combined with the genetic similarity of the flock, provides an ideal environment for viral strains to quickly mutate and become drug resistant.

Earlier this month, the Canadian



Poultry and Egg Processors Council held its 58th annual convention in Vancouver. Its Issues Report suggests the meeting addressed disease, de-populating and disinfecting barns, compensation for losses, and new drugs and vaccines. In fact, a drug company ad in the program booklet stated “Don’t let immunosuppression threaten your flocks,” and told how its drugs could “improve performance on broiler [chickens], especially on Problem Farms.” Problem farms? Now, that caught my attention!

The CFIA and the poultry sector are working on biosecurity and sanitation

measures to help control disease outbreaks. But are these Band-Aid solutions? It would seem biodiversity itself is the biosecurity we need.

The poultry industry is aware that if it bred its commercial “creations” with the local free-range flocks we could achieve a level of genetic diversity that would help reduce the spread of disease. However, because these flocks are not as productive as their commercial counterparts — they don’t grow as fast and produce less meat and fewer eggs — major producers are not interested in using them.

Alas, it appears once again we are paying the price for putting our culture’s goals of productivity and profit above what nature had intended. But it’s not just the profit-seekers’ fault. We all can take some blame on this one. Corporate producers are simply responding to the massive consumer demand for meat and animal products.

What can we do? Simply consume less meat, dairy and eggs. By curbing demand, we lessen supply. This will allow more farmers to return to the organic methods of 50 years ago. The entire poultry industry before 1950 was made up of small, organic flocks. It was the discovery of drugs to control disease that allowed larger, confined flocks and intensive production systems to proliferate.

Sure organic methods are more costly, and smaller flocks mean less available meat, but is this really such a bad thing? Research has shown that we would all benefit from incorporating more plants and less meat in our diets. Beyond the obvious human health benefits, having more meat-free meals also benefits the environment and, of course, the animals.

I already gave up meat for reasons of animal compassion. But even if animal welfare is not a driver for the average person, concern for one’s own health and welfare should be enough to land a few more vegetables and a few less chicken strips on anyone’s dinner plate.

Leanne McConnachie is the Director of Farm Animal Programs for VHS

Humane Christmas gift ideas

By **Debra Probert**

I love giving people presents! But knowing what I do about animal abuse, I also want to be sure that whatever I give people will not cause any animal to suffer. So I always keep my eyes open for products that are truly cruelty-free.

Because you care about animals, I'm sure that you feel the same way. So I have prepared the following source list for really wonderful gifts that will please the recipient as well as making you feel good about your purchases. Happy shopping!

PETA: www.peta.org/shop.asp – Where else but PETA would you find the perfect gift? From trendy t-shirts and mugs with a message to vegan lip balm, this is a great place to shop.

The Mystic Masala: www.themystic-masala.com | 604-876-3994 – If you have not experienced these products, you are in for a treat! The scented tea lights and candles are delightful, and made with the environment in mind. Ingredients include oils derived from spices, herbs and flowers, soy wax and cotton wicks, with no petroleum products or toxic chemicals. Except for the mama and baby soaps, all products are vegan and never, ever tested on animals, and made right here in BC. Order online (or check BC Ferries gift shops!)

Kama Natural Soap: www.kamasoap.com – Made locally on Salt Spring Island. With seventeen delectable scents to choose from, including the Liquorice Bar (my fave!) and Lemongrass/Cornmeal, you're sure to find something for everyone on your list. But don't stop at soap! There are ointments, lip balms and massage oils, as well as lots of other products to tempt you. The soaps, massage/bath/baby/face oils, bath salts and body powder are vegan; lip balms and some ointments may contain beeswax. Products are available online and at many retailers, including Bed on West 4th and Hollyfields on Granville Island in Vancouver. Check out the website for more locations.

LUSH: www.ca.lush.com – Although LUSH says they believe in not using

animal ingredients, a tiny number of their products are not vegan, containing beeswax, honey or milk. However, staff are very knowledgeable and can tell you immediately which products are vegan, or you can check out their newsletter, where vegan products are clearly marked with a V. For me, Christmas would not be Christmas without a big box of fragrant LUSH bathbombs under the tree!

Avalon Organics: www.avalonorganics.com – 100% vegetarian and environmentally conscious ingredients are the hallmark of this company. Hand and body lotion, hair-care and bath products are all wonderfully gentle and subtly scented. Most health/organic retailers carry a good selection.



CoverFX: www.coverfx.com – President and Co-creator Lee Graff assures me that Cover FX cosmetic products are animal-derivative-free and are not tested on animals. This Canadian company initially tested primarily on rosacea patients with extremely sensitive skin, the product line being developed to help mask skin disorders, but it has evolved into a popular brand. It's available at large retailers such as Shoppers

Drug Mart and the Bay. I love the lipstick – and it's reassuring to know I am not smearing animal excretions on my lips!

Shoppers Drug Mart: www.shoppersdrugmart.ca – Many, many Life Brand products are vegan. Some are marked 'no animal products', but many aren't. Bio-life dish soap and hand soap, for instance, are vegan. The only way to know for sure is to email, and I've always received a prompt reply whenever I've done so.

Some other gifts to consider: many local artists, singers, writers, etc. support animal issues. Following is a list of wonderful people who make a point of showing their compassion.

Babe Gurr: www.babegurr.com – Indie artist, singer/songwriter, Gurr has drawn comparisons to Sheryl Crowe and Bonnie Raitt. Check out her new album, Chocolate Lilly.

Diane Haynes: www.wildliferescueseries.com – Diane's animal-centred adventure novels, published by Whitecap Books, have captured the hearts of youngsters everywhere. Flight or Fight, Crow Medicine and soon to be released Gaia Wild can be ordered through amazon.com.

Graham Harrop: www.grahamharrop.com – Graham describes himself as making a living out of being goofy. He also is a superb cartoonist, making whimsical statements on interesting politicians like Stephen Harper and Sarah Palin. His products include books, shirts and greeting cards and he is a compassionate animal lover.

Rob Laidlaw: www.zoocheck.com – Rob is more than the most knowledgeable person on captive animals in Canada, he is also now a published author! In our previous newsletter, we reviewed his new book for adolescents, Animals in Captivity. VHS has several copies available at the office for \$19.95 plus \$3.00 for postage.

And don't forget to check out VHS's merchandise on our website! www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca

Case against factory farming grows

The case against factory farming just keeps getting stronger and stronger. A number of new studies and reports have emerged over the past few months, providing evidence that intensive animal agriculture is bad for the animals, the environment and human health.

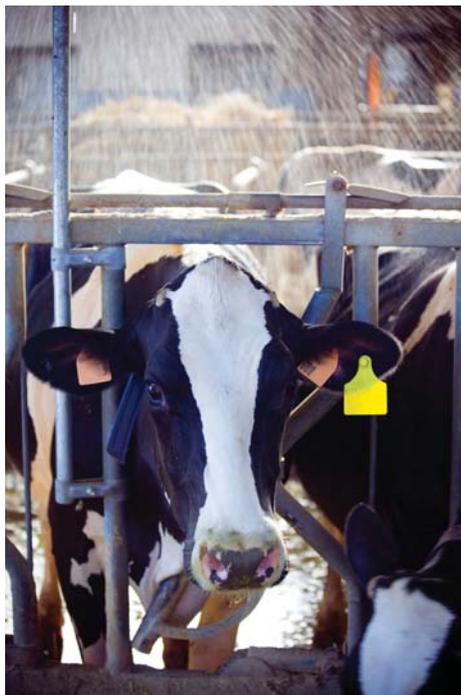
The latest is a major American study by the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, which spent two and half years and \$3.4 million researching U.S. animal agriculture. The commission concluded that industrial farming “posed unacceptable risks to public health, the environment and the welfare of the animals themselves.”

The study said that the negative effects of the industrial farm animal production system are “too great and the scientific evidence is too strong to ignore. Significant changes must be implemented and must start now.” Among the many problems described by the report are water and air pollution from animal waste, the creation of antibiotic resistant pathogens (caused by the routine use of antibiotics in livestock) and inhumane conditions for farm animals.

The commission called for the most intensive and inhumane production practices to be phased out within a decade to reduce the risk of intensive farming to public health and to improve animal well being. This would include putting an end to gestation crates for pigs

and battery cages for laying hens.

The report, *Putting Meat on the Table*:



Industrial Farm Animal Production in America, is available online at www.pewtrusts.org.

Another U.S. report, from the Union of Concerned Scientists, came to the same conclusions, stating: “Huge CAFOS (confined animal feeding operations) have become the predominant method of raising livestock, and the crowded

conditions in these facilities have increased water and air pollution and other types of harm to public health and rural communities.”

The report, *CAFOS Uncovered: The Untold Costs of Confined Animal Feeding Operations*, is available at www.ucsusa.org

The factory farming model has also taken root in Canada and has been exported around the world, especially to developing countries like China and India. B.C.’s Fraser Valley has more farm animals per square kilometre than anywhere else in Canada and the highest concentration of large farms. This has created a surplus manure problem which has caused water and air pollution in the valley.

The two American studies, which come on top of numerous other reports critical of factory farming and industrial livestock production, may be having an impact on public opinion. For example a New York Times editorial endorsed the findings of the reports, stating: “As both these reports make clear, the so-called efficiency of industrial animal production is an illusion, made possible by cheap grain, cheap water and prison-like confinement systems. In short, animal husbandry has been turned into animal abuse.”

Still awaiting exotic pet legislation

Controversy over the fate of a captive tiger on Vancouver Island has once again highlighted the need to regulate the keeping of exotic animals.

In September, a resident of the District of Highlands, near Victoria, took possession of a tiger formerly held by a private zoo near Lake Cowichan. Highlands was without an exotic animal bylaw and the District Council scrambled to put one in place before the tiger arrived. They passed the bylaw at an emergency meeting but the tiger’s new owner has defied the council, which is taking legal action against the resident.

The case has taken place against the background of patchy municipal

restrictions against exotic animal ownership and pending legislation from the provincial government on the issue. The B.C. government promised to introduce legislation to deal with exotics following the killing of a woman in 100 Mile House by a captive tiger in 2007. The legislation has still not been put in place.

Provincial regulation is likely to deal only with large and dangerous animals, without addressing the animal welfare issue for smaller species. Therefore it remains important for municipalities to put comprehensive exotic animal bylaws in place.

VHS staff recently met with Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts to discuss the issue.

Surrey’s current bylaw only bans the sale of exotic animals, but not the ownership. This means residents can simply go elsewhere to buy the animals and bring them back into the city. VHS is hoping the city council will re-visit the bylaw.



Social Justice 12 = Animal rights!

A controversial new Grade 12 course designed to promote tolerance and diversity by introducing B.C. students to concepts such as homophobia and cultural imperialism also contains pioneering material on animal rights – thanks to VHS's humane education project, Power of One.

Former VHS humane education program coordinator Lesley Fox worked with officials in the provincial education ministry to ensure that the course, Social Justice 12, would allow students to examine concepts such as anthropocentrism (making decisions or examining situations solely on the basis of their effect on human beings, to the exclusion of consideration of other living things) and speciesism (assigning different values or rights to beings on the basis of their species membership.)

VHS was the only animal protection organization in BC that took advantage of this exciting opportunity to educate stu-



dents about the issues surrounding animal use and abuse.

VHS believes it is important for students to have the chance to explore the idea of animal rights and its relationship to other issues such as environmentalism,

discrimination and oppression. The course is designed to teach students how to use critical thinking about such concepts, allowing them to make informed decisions about their own values and beliefs.

Introduction of the course sparked controversy recently when the Abbotsford school board voted not to offer the elective course in city schools.

As Animal Writes! was going to press VHS sponsored a humane education workshop for B.C. teachers called "Sowing Seeds." The workshop, organized by the Institute for Humane Education, was designed to help teach critical thinking about relevant issues of human rights, animal protection, environmental preservation, the media, and consumerism.



VHS Events

VHS was out and about during the summer, thanks to the great work of our volunteer organizer Lori Fitzgerald, who was ably assisted by summer students Carita Chan and Vincent Sy (pictured at left). VHS attending the following events:

- Lonsdale Farmers Market
- Burnaby Farmers Market
- Riley Park Farmers Market (Vancouver)
- Richmond Animal Wellness Expo
- Animal Rights Day (Vancouver)
- Langley's International Festival
- Earthsave's Taste of Health food festival
- Trout Lake Farmers Market (Vancouver)
- Commercial Drive Car Free Festival Parade
- Golden Spike Days (Port Moody)

Canadian Tire must drop glue traps

Retailer Canadian Tire continues to sell glue traps despite complaints about their inhumane nature. A spokesman for the company said, "We offer a complete selection of pest control products for our customers to choose from." He said glue traps offered an alternative to poisons and quick killing traps that may cause a hazard to children or other pets. Glue traps are known to be extremely stressful to the trapped animals, with cases of

rodents chewing off their own legs to escape. Rodent intrusion is largely preventable by maintaining clean, sanitary conditions and plugging holes or cracks where rats or mice can enter a building. If traps are needed to remove rodents, more humane box-type traps are available and retailers should be encouraged to order these from suppliers.

TO CONTACT CANADIAN TIRE:

email at:

customerservice@canadiantire.ca

Or write to:

Canadian Tire Customer Relations
P.O. Box 770, Stn. K
Toronto, ON M4P 2V8

So many good causes... so little money

By **Leanne McConnachie**

With the end of the year approaching, now is the time many of us begin to consider which charitable organizations will receive our 2008 donations. But with so many good causes to choose from, how do you decide which one(s) get your charitable dollars?

Most of us tend to donate to those groups whose name we recognize, or to those who are the first to send us a fundraising letter that pulls at our heart strings. The problem, however, is that while an organization's name may sound familiar, it may not be who we think they are, or may not do what we think they do. When donors later discover they've inadvertently given to the "wrong" group, they feel betrayed and often cease giving altogether.

Because only a very small amount of total charitable donations (around 1%) go towards animal protection charities in the first place, it is critical that these limited dollars are allocated as efficiently as possible. To do so, donors should conduct some basic research to ensure the "worthy" organizations receive their donations. Not only will donors gain more satisfaction from giving, but when donors focus on competence, it forces the organizations themselves to focus on competence. This, in turn, improves the overall effectiveness of the humane movement.

But how do we assess effectiveness?

Naturally we want to determine what outcomes the groups have accomplished in the past. We also want to have a good understanding of the goals they wish to achieve in the future. But what else should donors look?

During my graduate degree at UBC's Animal Welfare Program, I developed the **PREP Framework** to help donors assess an animal charity's performance. There are four main indicators:

P for Philosophy
R for Red Flags
E for Efficiency
P for People

There are many criteria that comprise the 4 indicators of the PREP Framework. For now, I will highlight just two indicators that are easy to research, and should ensure donor satisfaction: Philosophy and People.

PHILOSOPHY

Donors would be well-advised to research an organization's position statements and ethical policies concerning the animals it claims to protect. At a basic level, they should disclose what the organization supports, and what it is against. Do they support sport hunting, hunting for subsistence, rodeos, the keeping of animals as pets? What are their policies concerning native and non-native wild species? Do they support the culling of wildlife for population control? If a shelter states it is "no-kill", do they accept all animals or do they have limits on what and how many animals will be admitted, and what is the quality of care for animals that will remain in the shelter and never be re-homed?

PEOPLE

In addition to the skills and background of the management team, donors should also assess the relationship organizations have with their peers. Do they collaborate with other known animal groups and experts, are they financially supported by credible foundations, do their peers provide positive references about their work? If not, then one has to question their validity in some cases, and their intent in others.

Remember though that philosophies of individual animal organizations differ greatly as they span the spectrum from animal welfare to animal rights. As a result, many organizations, and even donors, condemn other groups for not sharing their position on controversial issues, or for not doing enough.

Unfortunately, publicly bashing each other only shakes donor confidence, thus weakening the humane movement. With fewer resources to help them, animals are

left even more vulnerable than they were before.

There is a role for every group, from the very radical to the moderate. If we all address our niche along the spectrum, we can collectively solve a great deal of problems. The best advice for donors is to support organizations for what they do do, and not to withhold support because of what they don't do.

In summary, the PREP framework offers an additional tool to help donors make more informed decisions. With a little bit of research, donors should garner enough information to ensure they focus their charitable dollars on capable, fiscally responsible, effective organizations with philosophies that align with their own values.



VHS calendars are here!

Our brand new 2009 'Rescued' calendar is a joint venture of VHS and RestQ Animal Sanctuary. It features some of the animals that have been helped this year, and at the same time gives you the chance to support two outstanding organizations! You'll be proud to give this as a gift - not only is it professional quality, but it also provides practical information to help your friends and relatives make choices that help animals. The cost is \$12.00 plus \$2.95 postage and handling for a total of \$14.95. There are a limited number available - we've already sold more than half. Please contact our office to purchase your copy today: 604 266 9744 or email: laara@vancouverhumaneociety.bc.ca.



VHS 2009 calendar order form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email address: _____

Cheque enclosed

Mastercard or Visa (check one): Card number: _____

Expiry date: _____

Please send me _____ VHS/RestQ Animal Sanctuary calendars at \$12.00 each plus \$2.95 postage and handling. Mail this form to Vancouver Humane Society, 8623 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC, V6P 5A2.



Welcome to Laara!

Laara Ryane is VHS's new administrative manager, pictured here with two of our office dogs, Luke and Robbie. Laara, originally from Northern Ireland, has an extensive background in administration. She

replaces Memory Maunde, who has moved Toronto to study nursing. We wish them both luck in their new endeavours!

Happy Endings

GABRIEL

Gabriel is a Manx kitten whose life has not started well. He was found abandoned, and apparently unable to walk, by a Good Samaritan who took him to a vet, only to discover that his back legs do not work at all.

His kind rescuer gave Gabriel a home. Meanwhile, VHS appealed for help to cover the significant medical costs involved in diagnosing and treating Gabriel's condition. After a basic examination and being

vaccinated and neutered, he needed to undergo a series of tests to determine what is wrong with his legs and to see if anything can be done give him the use of his back legs. A generous VHS supporter has answered our call for help, agreeing to cover Gabriel's medical costs. While he awaits treatment, Gabriel seems content, cheerfully pulling himself along with his front paws to play just like any other kitten. And now he will be given a chance to walk again and enjoy a full life. 🐾



BEAR

Bear, an eight-year old German shepherd mix, is a true gentle giant whose life hasn't always been easy. In 2007, Bear's family moved and left him, his sister, and the family cats at the local SPCA shelter. The other animals were all adopted but Bear remained at the shelter for five months. Fortunately, his current guardian gave him the home he'd been hoping for and he has become well-known on the Stanley



Park seawall, where he meets and greets everyone who walks by. But Bear was forced to miss many walks along the seawall after a sudden turn prompted by the sight of a squirrel resulted in cruciate ligament damage. The costs of the necessary surgery were extremely high and VHS launched an appeal for help. A generous response from a VHS donor saved the day and Bear is now recovering well. 🐾



TJ

TJ is a one-and-a-half-year-old male cat who made the mistake of jumping off a roof, resulting in a fractured tibia. His guardian could not afford the medical treatment TJ required, so VHS stepped in to help. TJ has recovered and is now doing well. 🐾