



news

MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

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Read about MFOA's animal
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THE SUPREME INJUSTICE by Robert Fisk, Jr.

There is no other animal that inspires more romantic metaphors than the horse. We admire its power and grace with its rare combination of beauty, strength and freedom. Nature smiled and opened a generous hand when she gave man the horse. For millenniums the horse has changed mankind -- the ways we travel, trade, play, work and fight wars have all been profoundly shaped by our relationship with horses.

For more than 3,000 years, a warrior on horseback or in a horse-drawn chariot was the ultimate weapon and the millions of horse 'tank' deaths changed the balance of power between civilizations. Horses continued to define military tactics well into the 1900s. Horses have cleared forests, plowed land, herded cattle, served as taxis and trucks and pulled trolley cars. By carrying people, goods and ideas between civilizations, horses changed history. Consider also the magnificent athlete of a well-trained horse as equestrian sports entertain throughout the world. And not the least, horses have provided companionship and friendship that only horse lovers have the joy of knowing.

Does not this noble animal deserve only the best from all that it has given and meant to us? Humans' love and honor to horses is displayed throughout this country and its history. Unfortunately

their unparalleled stature and legacy cannot save them from the ultimate disrespect and cruelty of the slaughter house. Each year approximately 1,500 horses are shipped from Maine to two slaughter houses in Quebec. The transport and slaughter are appalling practices that are often kept hidden from the public.

The entire process, including the slaughter auction, the method of transportation, the feedlots, the slaughter plants -- everything up to and including their death -- is inhumane. Approximately 30% of horses are injured from fighting and poor transportation. Panicked horses are often prodded and beaten off the truck and into the kill-chute. The horses stand in line smelling the blood, sensing and hearing the terror. While in the "kill box" they shake violently, falling, unable to stand from fear

The "Unwanted Horses in Maine" article below addresses the issues surrounding unwanted horses in Maine, what has been done, what is being done, and what still needs to be done. But one issue that has no justification is the inhumane slaughter of this magnificent, intelligent, feeling animal that has so faithfully served man for so long, so well and so nobly. Please join us in our effort to legislatively ban any association with horse slaughter and end Maine's complicity in this practice.

UNWANTED HORSES IN MAINE

For years, MFOA has heard stories about neglect and cruelty involving horses in Maine. Sadly, such cases appear to be on the increase, particularly due to the current economy and years of over-breeding. In the past year alone, MFOA has witnessed severe cases of cruelty to horses in Waldoboro, Minot, and Clinton. In 2008, over 560 complaints regarding possible equine neglect or abuse were reported to local Animal Control Officers and/or the Animal Welfare Program.

Two years ago, MFOA organized a meeting of individuals most familiar with the issue of unwanted horses in Maine. Although there were differing ideas regarding the issue, all agreed there was a problem, and equine abuse, neglect and cruelty needed to be addressed. At that point it became MFOA's newest focus issue.

In 2009, the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry directed a working group *To Study Equine Husbandry Practices in the State*. Among its recommendations was the creation of a "voluntary coalition of equine owners, private businesses, non-profit entities, public or private agencies, and other stake-holders interested in the future of Maine horses to provide education and assistance



to horse owners and equine based businesses."

The Maine Equine Welfare Alliance (MEWA) is in its first year and organizing its members to meet its mission of being 'dedicated to helping horse owners struggling to provide for their animals and saving as many as possible from abuse, abandonment and neglect'. Subcommittees are now addressing hay/feed assistance, temporary foster care, veterinarian/farrier assistance, emergency response, public awareness/education and political action. It is encouraging that so many individuals involved with horses are meeting in an effort to improve the plight of

unwanted /uncared for horses in Maine.

Not in the MEWA mission, however is the issue of horse slaughter. There are no slaughter plants in this country, but unfortunately many horses are still being transported to Mexico and Canada for slaughter for human consumption outside the USA. It is estimated that approximately 1,500 horses are kept in Maine and transported across the border to be killed in two slaughter houses in Quebec. Some horses are transported to Maine from other states while

continued on back page

MFOA OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Madison Elementary School Pet Program

The education of the public, media and the legislature regarding animal protection issues has been a staple of Maine Friends of Animals' mission. We are always looking for direct outreach opportunities to disseminate the message, from tabling at country fairs to speaking before groups, to passing out literature at circuses to attending the state Democratic and Republican conventions. MFOA is particularly excited about its new involvement with a program that offers a unique opportunity to educate others by working with Maine elementary schools to teach young children the responsibility of having a pet and how to care for and protect companion animals.

This past May, MFOA Director Robert Fisk, Jr. visited the Madison Elementary School to speak to its Pet Club, which is the initiative of teacher Betty Abbott. In three short years, it has grown into a very involved group of six classes of 3rd and 4th graders. The Pet Club has, among other things, raised money for a local animal shelter, set up a Pet Memorial Garden, put up a school bulletin board,

spotlighted students and teachers who have helped companion animals, gotten involved with bringing a soldier's dog back to Maine from Afghanistan, submitted an article to Downeast Dog News, and donated \$500 to MFOA from a penny drive and sale of gourmet dog bones made by teachers and parents.

So impressed was the MFOA Director that he and Ms. Abbott began to consider making the Pet Club a model for other schools across the state. Since that initial meeting, MFOA and the Madison Elementary School have created a complete Pet Club packet to be provided to elementary schools with guidelines on how to organize their own Pet Club. With the coordination of an advisory board, MFOA and Pet Club members from Madison also hope to speak to elementary schools about the benefits of caring for companion animals through a Pet Club. MFOA is also pursuing a grant to help bring Pet Clubs statewide. If you know an elementary school teacher in your area who might like to form a Pet Club, please have them contact us at info@mfoa.net.



PET CLUB ISSUES

- Care of companion animals
- Promote animal welfare
- Help local shelters
- Educate about animal cruelty
- Educate about pets left in cars
- Promote spay/neuter
- Support animal rescue groups
- Feral cats
- Firehouse pet oxygen masks
- "Dogs Chained for Life"
- Pet Food drop-offs

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Are you a MFOA member? Be a part of Maine's leading animal protection organization. Go to www.mfoa.net and click on DONATION.

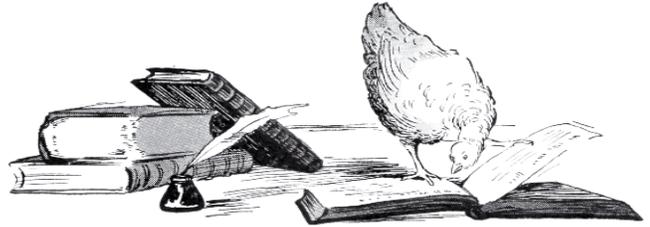
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January 2011



125th Legislative Session



AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS PROTECTING DOGS

Sponsor: Sen. Stan Gerzofsky (Brunswick)

This bill is a collection of miscellaneous revisions to existing statutes in an effort to increase the abilities to enforce laws that protect dogs in various ways.

- Providing stronger penalties for dog breeders with vending licenses for failure to post their license numbers such as in Uncle Henry's, Craig's List and on street signs.
- Moving vendor licensing from the Animal Welfare Program to the towns which are better able to oversee compliance while receiving licensing fees.
- Improving portions of existing statutes about dogs in the back of pick-up trucks to now include:

The space is enclosed or has side and tail rails to the height of at least 46 inches extending vertically from the floor; or the dog is cross-tethered; or the dog is protected by a secured container or cage.

- Increasing the ability to encourage and force municipalities to provide, support and enforce animal control officers in reporting and enforcing animal cruelty laws.
- Specifying entry portal size as part of a four-sided dog house.
- Increasing the ability to forcefully enter an unattended vehicle with a dog in duress.

AN ACT TO PREVENT HORSE SLAUGHTER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Sponsor: Rep. Gary Knight (Livermore Falls)

Each year approximately 1,500 horses are kept and transported from Maine to Quebec for slaughter for human consumption outside the USA. MFOA believes there is no circumstance to justify the slaughter of an animal that has served mankind so nobly for so long. Under this statute it is unlawful for any person to possess, to import or export from the state, or to sell, buy, give away, hold, or accept any horse with the intent of killing, or having another kill, that horse, if that person knows or should have known that any part of that horse will be used for human consumption. Violation incurs a possible felony conviction with imprisonment from 16 months to three years.

A JOINT RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO END ITS SANCTIONING OF THE ANNUAL SEAL PUP HUNT

Sponsor: Rep. Paul Waterhouse (Bridgton)

Every year, more than 330,000 baby harp seals – just months old – are killed in the most barbaric manner for their fur. The Canadian government sanctions this slaughter of infant seals to satisfy the vanity of a few who still want to wear seal fur. The annual kill takes place in the Canadian maritime providences, especially New Brunswick. With this legislative resolution, Maine, being the closest US state to this slaughter, would provide a

strong statement that it does not support any industry based upon the needless suffering of animals, and Canada should heed the growing international call to end this barbaric practice.

AN ACT TO BAN RECREATIONAL BEAR TRAPPING

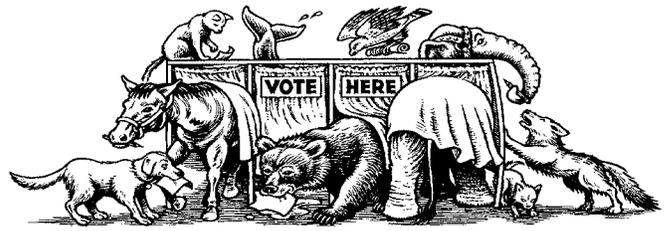
Rep. Alan Casavant (Biddeford)

This bill would prohibit the use of setting a trap to hunt or capture a bear. With the closeness of the 2004 state referendum to ban the hunting of Maine black bears by the use of bait, hounds and traps, public awareness has been greatly enhanced regarding a practice that is inhumane, unnecessary and unsportsmanlike. All three practices have a common thread of having no fair chase component and being noticeably inhumane, but the trapping of a bear at which this bill is directed, is the most egregious. Maine is the only state in the country that still allows this extremely cruel and unethical practice.



NOTE: Maine Friends of Animals often spends as much time working against harmful legislation affecting animals as we do introducing and promoting positive animal protection legislation. As always, we will monitor all legislation affecting companion, farm and wildlife animals. You can follow legislation at the State legislative website www.maine.gov/legis/ or MFOA's website www.mfoa.net.

Animal Lobbyists



In each of the last six state legislative elections MFOA has sent a questionnaire to all the candidates. The return of those questionnaires is important in finding good bill sponsors and co-sponsors, informing and getting input from legislators, and gauging the interest in certain animal protection issues and legislation.

Some animal-friendly candidates did not win and some were term limited, but in total it still was a good year for many animal-friendly candidates getting elected. Each year the number of responses to our questionnaire has grown, giving us hope that issues affecting animals are working their way into mainstream thinking. MFOA is non-partisan and we do not endorse candidates, but we do very actively encourage our members and supporters to be politically engaged. There is perhaps nothing you can do to help the cause

more than to help get animal-friendly legislators, regardless of party, elected.

Your legislator may be animal-friendly, but not on this list if he or she does not have a voting record or did not return the questionnaire. Let us know if you believe your legislator supports animal protection. If your Senator and/or Representative is listed, please take a moment and send a thank-you letter or e-mail for completing the survey and being animal-friendly; ask them to support MFOA and other animal protection legislation. When they do, please thank them.

For the 2010 MFOA Legislative Candidate Questionnaire go to our website: www.mfoa.net and click on Legislation / Campaigns.

MFOA Animal-friendly 2010 legislators

State Senators

Lawrence Biss	S7	South Portland
Nancy Sullivan	S4	Biddeford
Margaret Craven	S16	Lewiston
Stan Gerzofsky	S10	Brunswick

State Representatives

Emily Ann Cain	H19	Orono
L.Gary Knight	H81	Livermore Falls
Margaret Rotundo	H74	Lewiston
Alan Casavant	H137	Biddeford
Meredith Strang Burgess	H108	Cumberland
James Dill	H14	Old Town
Richard Wagner	H73	Lewiston
Anne Peoples	H125	Westbrook

Denise Harlow	H116	Portland
George Hogan	H132	Old Orchard Beach
Brian Bolduc	H69	Auburn
Sara Stevens	H17	Bangor
Karen Foster	H58	Augusta
Bryan Kaenrath	H124	South Portland
Edward Mazurek	H47	Rockland
Seth Berry	H67	Bowdoinham
Anna Blodgett	H56	Augusta
Andrea Boland	H142	Sanford
Alex Cornell du Houx	H66	Brunswick
Jane Eberle	H123	South Portland
John Hinck	H118	Portland
Melissa Walsh Innes	H107	Yarmouth
Andy O'Brien	H44	Lincolntonville



Patti Richards at the Democratic State Convention in Lewiston

Robert Fisk, Jr. at the Republican State Convention in Portland

MAINE HUMANE LOBBY DAY

Join The Humane Society of the United States and Maine Friends of Animals. Learn how to be an effective citizen lobbyist for animals.

March 24, 2011
The Capitol -- Augusta
9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Sign up today
Katie Lisnik at klisnik@humanesociety.org
Robert Fisk, Jr. at mfoa@maine.rr.com





LIVING IN HARMONY WITH WILDLIFE

The Misunderstood Coyote

Native American cultures view them as powerful mythical figures, respected for their intelligence and mischievous nature. Navajo herders call them “God’s dog.” Yet many in our society consider

coyotes a nuisance, a threat to livestock and domestic pets, and serious competition for game species.

Coyotes have lived in North America for centuries, from California to Newfoundland. They utilize a wide range of habitat from grasslands to deserts, forests, and recently, urban parks and neighborhoods. In all locations, they play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and species diversity. By ‘regulating’ smaller predators like foxes, raccoons, skunks, badgers, and opossums through competition and direct killing, they have a significant positive impact on rodent control and bird populations.

Coyotes are opportunistic, with a superb adaptability to environmental changes, and survive based on available food sources. Despite decades of our extermination efforts, their range continues to expand, largely as a result of our extensive forest clearing and eradication of wolves and cougars which has left a void in the predator/prey hierarchy. Simply killing coyotes does not resolve the problem; in fact, it has proven to be counterproductive as birth rates typically increase.

Stable, healthy coyote families are typically wary of humans. It’s the wandering, unhealthy, injured or starving animal that is likely to seek out unprotected pets/farm animals. Once the connection of humans with easy access to food is made, coyotes minimize and/or abandon their hunting territories, resulting in an influx and establishment of other individuals or packs.

Irresponsible human behavior is most often the root cause of wildlife conflicts. There are many simple ways we can eliminate or reduce coyote interactions:

- 1) Keep cats and small pets indoors; bring small dogs in at night;
- 2) Walk dogs on a leash, especially during spring when adult coyotes are territorial and protective of their young;
- 3) Don’t feed pets outside or leave food bowls outside;
- 4) Secure garbage cans by fastening lids with rope or bungee cords;
- 5) Place bins inside a shed, garage or other enclosed area;
- 6) Do not leave dumpsters uncovered/unsecured;
- 7) Put garbage out on pick up morning, not the night before;
- 8) Eliminate artificial water sources, such as koi ponds;

- 9) Clear brush and dense weeds to reduce hiding/den opportunities;
- 10) Close off crawl spaces under porches, decks, sheds;
- 11) Spay/neuter dogs to avoid attracting coyotes, especially during mating season;
- 12) Don’t overflow bird feeders as excess seed invites rodents.

If you have gardens:

- 1) Use enclosed bins for composting, rather than exposed piles;
- 2) Avoid adding dog or cat waste, meat, milk and egg products;
- 3) Pick ripe or older fruit off the ground;
- 4) Use heavy wire mesh fencing up to 6’ tall around gardens, with the bottom extending 6” below ground and outward.

For livestock owners:

- 1) Use multi-species stocking (e.g., sheep and cattle together);
- 2) Protect livestock in predator proof enclosures, especially during lambing/calving and at night;
- 3) Utilize guard dogs, donkeys, or llamas;
- 4) Use electric fencing, motion lighting and scare tactics, such as electronics which emit high bursts of sound;
- 5) Develop composting or chemical means to dispose of live stock and wildlife carcasses;
- 6) Install motion activated sprinkler systems or coyote rollers along perimeter fencing.

Coyote attacks are rare; there have been only 142 reported in the last 40 years. When conflicts arise, they are almost always associated with animals that have been fed by humans. Although there are no documented reports of coyote attacks in Maine, keep in mind: A coyote’s normal behavior is wary; it will try to identify you and usually runs off. If it appears aggressive, treat it like you would an aggressive dog: don’t turn your back or run, stand your ground, shout at it. Act big and mean, wave your arms and make loud noises. If these actions fail, throw clods of earth or sticks near the ground, then the body, but never at the animal’s head. Keep yourself between coyotes and small children or companion animals. Walk trails with an air horn, whistle, walking stick or cane.

As we continue to expand into wildlife habitat and coyotes adapt to our increasing presence, encounters will occur. It is up to us to reduce, if not eliminate, negative interactions by educating communities about humane techniques for co-existence, to foster understanding and appreciation of the role the coyote plays in healthy ecosystems, and the need to keep them wild.

Resources for this article: Animal Protection Institute, The Eastern Coyote: The Story of Its Success by Gerry Parker, & Tom Horton (BOSTON GLOBE, May 2010)

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We want to thank those who have donated financially to Maine Friends of Animals. Our memberships and donations continue to grow, which means our ability to advance animal protection grows as well. We realize there are many good causes your donation could be going to, thus it means a great deal to us that animal protection means that much to you. Your generosity over the years has made MFOA a voice for animals in Maine, and we now are stronger than ever in advancing animal protection into mainstream thinking. We simply could not have done what we have without your memberships and generous donations. We could not list all our donors in the space allowed, but all donations large and small are most appreciated, and are used entirely to make the life of Maine's animals a better one.

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(Unwanted Horses continued)

others are given up by owners who are unable to provide for them. Unfortunately, many owners have unknowingly given up their horses under the pretense of the buyer finding a good home for them and instead shipping them for slaughter.

They are hauled hundreds of miles for hours in cramped trailers, frightened, sometimes injured, with limited food and water, only to be further stressed at the terrors of a slaughter house. Their final hours can be horrific.

Maine Friends of Animals believes there is no justification for this practice and that Maine should not be party to it. MFOA has submitted legislation to ban the transport and all other related activities involving horse slaughter. (See MFOA 2011 legislation on page 4.) Please actively support this legislation: contact your State Representative and Senator, and ask them to support and vote for ending Maine's involvement in the slaughter of horses.

HOW TO HELP A DOG "CHAINED FOR LIFE"

"Dogs Chained for Life" (DCFL) is an on-going focus issue for MFOA. In 2006, MFOA successfully passed the first enforceable legislation in the nation addressing dogs left outside on a continuous basis. Additionally, our Public Service Announcement (link located at bottom of www.mfoa.net homepage), shown on TV stations throughout the state, has resulted in an increased reporting of dogs left out 24/7. Countless dogs have been rescued and re-homed because of these reports.



IF YOU SEE A DCFL, HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO: (IN ORDER)

1. Know the law. There are specific requirements for a dog left outside continuously. Go to:

www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/7/title7sec4015.html

2. Document the situation. Take pictures if you can.

3. Call the Animal Control Officer (ACO) for that town. For a statewide list of ACOs visit: <http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/aw/ACOs.html>

4. Politely ask that the ACO report back to you, and call again if he/she does not visit the site and/or report findings to you. Note: In some cases you may need to politely refer the ACO to the law. Each municipality is required by statute to provide an ACO to address animal cruelty.

5. If you feel the ACO or the town is not enforcing the laws, call MFOA at 207-781-2187 to report the case.

6. MFOA will follow-up with the ACO and municipality if needed, and /or request that you call the state Animal Welfare Program.

7. If you then still feel the situation is not being properly addressed, contact MFOA again and we will follow up.

8. If the dog is removed or surrendered, MFOA will assist in finding a new home or adoption resources for the animal.

NORMA WORLEY LEAVING THE AWP

Almost a decade ago public outcry forced not only the firing of the state Animal Welfare Program Director, but also providing legislation revising how the state handled animal welfare. One result was the formation of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and another was the hiring of Norma Worley as the new director. The challenges were great and for the last eight years she has transformed the AWP in an exemplary manner many thought not possible. The list of accomplishments in moving the AWP into the 21st century are too numerous to list in this space. It has resulted in saving countless animals from abuse, neglect and cruelty and vastly improved animal welfare in the state, even while being underfunded and understaffed. Norma will be missed and we wish her well in her new endeavors.



MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

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Silence is the Voice of Complicity – Speak Up for Animals

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