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MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

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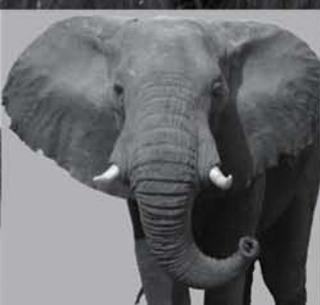
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Read about MFOA's animal protection work over the last 10 years by clicking on Timeline at: www.mfoa.net



"Dogs Chained for Life" Campaign Update

In March of 2005, MFOA successfully passed legislation that addressed dogs being left outside on a continual basis. It required increased specifications to protect dogs that are left outside, and, at that time, was a first-in-the nation legislation. With that legislative success, MFOA decided to continue the "Dogs Chained for Life" campaign, which has also been featured in our 2006 and 2007 newsletters, and to submit subsequent legislation that included a requirement that the dog be taken off tether each day for three hours. The follow-up bill failed, in part because the Maine Municipal Association lobbied against it because of concerns for the additional work incurred by the Animal Control Officers.

However, by law each municipality must have someone to oversee animal control and be responsible in responding to cases of abuse and cruelty. Perhaps the most pervasive form of animal cruelty is these lonely and abandoned dogs, especially with our severe Maine winters. It is, therefore, our responsibility to keep

the heat to the feet of the municipalities to make sure they do what is required by statute.

The follow-up strategy is to focus more on the enforcement and adjudication of the existing laws. Maine has some of the best animal welfare laws in the nation and with the initial "Dogs Chained for Life" bill there is more than enough for authorities to take action. MFOA is working more closely with local Animal Control Officers and the Animal Welfare Program on reporting and following-up on cases that need attention and this is where MFOA members come in. You are the eyes and ears in finding these poor forgotten animals. Please call the MFOA office and report any abuse case and we will make sure action is taken. Many reports to our office come from our "Dogs Chained of Life" public service announcement that is periodically aired on most of the state's television stations. This PSA can be viewed by clicking on the PSA icon at the bottom of the MFOA home page at www.mfoa.net.

What You Should Do if You See a "Dog Chained For Life"

1 Know the law regarding "Outside Dogs." Although Maine currently allows tethering 24/7, the State does have very specific requirements regarding dogs left outside for more than 12 hours per day. This Law along with other State Animal Welfare laws can be found at: <http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/aw/>.

2 Gather Information - Document the neglect and violations of existing law using pictures and written accountings. Keep record of all communications that you have with authorities concerning the dog's welfare.

3 Contact the Authorities - Report the dog to your local Animal Control Officer noting specific legal infractions. Be sure to have the physical address of the dog when making a report. Provide as much detail and documentation as possible.

4 Follow-up with the Animal Control Officer to determine what steps he/she has taken to correct the neglect.

5 Continue to monitor the situation. Occurrences of neglect are rarely resolved with one phone call. If more humane infractions occur, contact the ACO again. If the ACO is not responsive, call his/her superiors (Police, Town Manager, State Animal Welfare Department).

6 Engage the community. Most likely, you are not the only person concerned about the dog's well being. Speak to neighbors about the dog. Ask them to become involved in documentation and communication with authorities and/or the dog owner.

7 Educate the Dog Owner. Send an educational letter to the dog owner regarding why chaining is inhumane and dangerous (sample letters can be found on www.MFOA.net).

8 Offer Alternatives to Chaining. Often dogs are chained outside because they are not house trained, are destructive in the home, are escape artists, or unwanted. Offering the dog owner solutions to these challenges, assistance building a fence, training tips, re-homing assistance, can save a dog's life.

9 Contact the Media. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper concerning the plight of the chained dog. Call your local television station.

10 Get Political - Many communities and states have already restricted or outlawed chaining as a means of confinement. Contact your community leaders and state legislators and ask them to pass an anti-tethering law in your community.



Susanna Richer

MFOA Administrative Director

With the growth of Maine Friends of Animals, a paid position was created in 2005 to handle some of the day-to-day and long-term needs of the organization. The goal is to ultimately increase the number of paid staff at the MFOA offices in Falmouth.

Susanna Richer of Portland is the current Administrative Director, and in her first year she has made a significant difference in moving MFOA's agenda forward. Susanna's responsibilities include database management, financials, member inquiries and correspondences, website management, campaign needs and assistance to the Director and Board as needed. Much of what the MFOA hopes to accomplish could not be done without Susanna's work as the office manager.

Susanna has a long history of rescuing and re-homing dogs. She is also the area representative for Dogs Deserve Better, a national non-profit organization. When she heard of the MFOA "Dogs Chained for Life" campaign, she contacted MFOA and became chairperson for the campaign and a member of the Board of Directors. Susanna now works full time for Maine Friends of Animals and Dogs Deserve Better, while continually rescuing dogs in Maine.

"Susanna talks the talk and walks the walk," said Director Robert Fisk, Jr. "She spends a great deal of time on the frontlines and then wears the hat of a very capable administrator. Operationally we are very fortunate to have her, and there are many dogs in this state who owe their lives and happy existence to Susanna."



Susanna Richer, MFOA Office Manager

MFOA in Action

MFOA organized demonstrations and brought the media's attention to two high profile cases in 2007 involving cruelty to dogs. At the Superior court in Alfred, MFOA board member Ree Gonzalez organized a peaceful protest and had letters submitted to the court asking for the maximum penalty under the law (aggravated animal cruelty, a felony offense) for an especially senseless and cruel killing of a dog in a domestic dispute. Over 50 people and 20 dogs joined in the demonstration.



In August, the State Animal Welfare Program seized over 250 dogs from a puppy mill in Buxton. It was perhaps the worst case ever of a puppy mill in Maine. MFOA supported the AWP and again staged a peaceful demonstration at the Biddeford District Court to alert the press and the public to the fact that Maine has puppy mills and many backyard breeders that are breeding dogs in inhumane conditions, for money only. The court and the legislature need to strengthen the message that needless animal suffering is unacceptable to Maine citizens.

Animal Welfare Program Report 2007

1. Received 879 complaints in 2007 (754 last year) but had to send an additional 300+ to Animal Control Officer's as AWP did not have the resources to investigate them.
2. The leading complaints were improper care, no shelter, filthy conditions, no food or water.
3. 16 cases are on-going criminal complaints in District Courts.
4. Removed 946 animals in 2007 from abusive situations compared to 392 in 2006. Note: This large increase was due to the two large seizures from puppy mills, Buxton and Greene. Unfortunately with the huge amount of seizures and total animals seized the expenses have taken a huge bit of the AWP budget. The Buxton case alone has cost close to \$400,000 because of high medical costs to save these dogs. Hopefully these costs will not impact future seizures.
5. Seized animals by species: 534 dogs, 329 cats, 35 horses, 34 birds, 11 rabbits, and 9 other.
6. Penobscot, Kennebec, and Aroostook County had the most complaints.
7. The Help Fix ME program altered 1,614 cats and 456 dogs for low income owners. The total animals altered in 2007 was 2,070 which is up from 1,184 in 2006.
8. The on line dog licensing program continues to grow with 4,497 dogs licensed in 2007 which is above the 2,805 in 2006.

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What Animals Dream

Artist Statement, Janice Kasper

"My work is directly related to my growing concern over the protection of wildlife and wild lands in Maine"

This is a series I have been working on for the last three years. I have been actively involved in wildlife protection issues in the State of Maine for some time now. My work over the last few decades has reflected my concern for the increasing loss of wild lands in the state. When one is working on habitat protection and it feels like the battle is being lost, the message can often become negative and ireful. In this series, I wanted to present a balance of the positive and negative forces present in the lives of the wild animals residing in our state. I chose the dreaming state because it opens the possibilities of depicting each animal's friends and foes. The magic of art is that one can take possibilities and turn them into visual realities. We do not know if animals have visual dreams but I like to think they might. If they do dream as we do, the images that cross their minds would most likely contain foods that they love to eat, predators they may fear, and mates and offspring that they hold dear. I chose animals that I have observed and admired in the wild for many years. I also enjoyed researching each animal further for this series to find out more about their food and habitat preferences. This series is my way of sharing the love and admiration that I have for the fellow creatures that share with us this great State of Maine.



Moose 2006, oil on canvas 42 x 64 inches



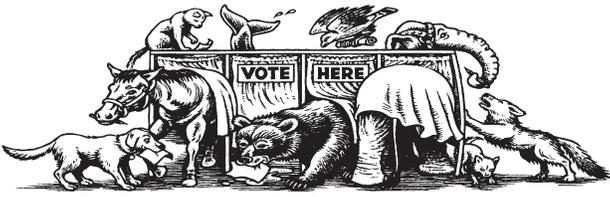
River Otters, 2006, oil on canvas 28 x 48 inches



Red Fox, 2006, oil on canvas 30 x 36 inches

The New York Times wrote—

Maine painter Janice Kasper “can loosely be described as Georgia O’Keefe with a cause.” Kasper’s cause is wildlife protection. A painter with an eye for color, Kasper creates imaginative images of moose, fox, deer and other wildlife common to Maine. She recently did an artist-in-residency program at Denali National Park in Alaska. The Portland Museum of Art and Farnsworth Art Museum both own her paintings as part of their collections, and she has had numerous exhibitions across Maine and throughout New England. She shows regularly at Caldbeck Gallery in Rockland.



Getting Political

Volunteering in a political campaign is an invaluable experience. It can be an exciting, intense, short term sense of group solidarity and a fun way to meet others who share your passion for an issue / candidate, while learning how voting blocs, even minority ones, can and do affect election outcomes. Candidate recruitment for the state legislature is beginning now for the November elections. Getting MFOA-endorsed candidates elected is one of the most important things you can do to advance animal protection.

Recruit Animal-Friendly State House and Senate Candidates

- Use MFOA voting bloc structure and resources. MFOA has the state divided into 14 population districts, each with a District Coordinator (DC) who has a master list of all the MFOA members and supporters in that district. Contact the DC in your area and see if there may be someone who might be a potential state legislative candidate.
- Organize politically at the grassroots level. Work with your DC to form a group of animal protection activists in your area to work together to support an animal-friendly candidate.
- Attend your party's monthly meetings (ex: Brunswick Republican Town Committee meeting) and get a copy of the local party rules on electing candidates; see if there is someone in that group we would want to encourage to run for the state legislature.
- Ask people about civic or business leaders and community activists who may be a good candidate to be a state legislator, and then call, email, or write them to see how they feel about some animal-protection issues. A potential candidate should realize a political campaign requires a seven-day-a-week commitment for many months before the election. All the more reason why volunteering a few hours a week in the fall is important in helping candidates.
- Do opposition research on incumbent votes, and does he or she have any controversial positions, or has the legislator become lazy and not represented the district with any distinction, or does a new candidate lack the experience that would make them a good legislator, or have they voted against animal protection.

Here are the many ways in which you can help elect an animal-friendly legislator:

The following volunteer positions could be beneficial in getting MFOA-endorsed candidates elected. Any amount of time you can volunteer will be appreciated by the candidate.

- Campaign Manager (often the candidate)
- Treasurer
- Director of Field Operations/Database Coordination
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Media and Event Scheduler
- Absentee Ballot Coordinator (more vote absentee than ever before)
- Webmaster
- Write letters to the editor in local newspapers
- Event Planner
- Principal Fundraiser (if not a clean election candidate)
- Voter registration list/looking up phone numbers
- Neighborhood canvassing, door-knocking, registering new voters, distributing campaign materials at malls, etc.
- Call friends, neighbors or business associates and ask them to vote for our candidate
- Put up road signs
- Phone-banking to identify supporters and promote candidate
- Help getting out the vote on Election Day



Nova Free, MFOA Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator at Common Grounds Fair, Unity, ME



MFOA Endorses Senator Susan Collins

Maine Friends of Animals focuses its political impetus on state legislative races and seldom endorses national or local candidates. However, given the outstanding record of Maine's Republican U.S. Senator Susan Collins, we have made an exception for this election.

Her list of bills supporting animal welfare is too long to list, but recently includes legislation in ending the slaughter of U.S. horses for human consumption, calling upon the government of Canada to end its commercial seal hunt, increasing funding for animal welfare, ending commercial whaling, increasing animal fighting enforcement, sponsoring downed animal protection, adding a bittering agent to anti-freeze to prevent pet and small animal poisoning, cosponsoring the pet safety act against Class B dealers of dogs and cats sold for research, and improving post-Katrina FEMA response to animals caught in a natural disaster.

Not only has our Maine Senator supported these and other animal protection bills, she is often a leading sponsor and active advocate. Senator Collins has repeatedly received an A on The Humane Society of the United States's annual legislative scorecard.

Our endorsement means that we very much hope all our members and supporters will do whatever they can to help re-elect Senator Susan Collins so that she can go back to Congress for six more years to continue to do all that she does for animals.

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 done 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.

1,000 and over

Betsey Holtzmann
Elizabeth Fay
Alan Hyman
Eugenie Sotiropoulos-Foss
Nancy Bogenberger &
Peter Lamandia
Merl Clarke

Janika Eckert
Frema Kutler Rauh
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Eddie Woodin
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Melanie Alley
Jeannine Lockwood Dickey

Renew your membership to Maine's leading animal protection organization. Go online at www.mfoa.net or use the enclosed remittance envelope. Help us give Maine's animals a voice.

Maine Friends of Animals is a 501.c4, which allows us to be more legislatively and politically engaged than a regular non-profit, but as a 501.c4 your donations are not tax deductible. That makes your contributions even more appreciated.

Living in Harmony with Wildlife



As urban sprawl increases, humans will continue to invade thousands of acres of natural terrain, often destroying wildlife homes in the process. Here are some simple tips for living in harmony with some of our wild friends:

Chipmunks & Squirrels

- In their search for nuts and berries, chipmunks or squirrels may unintentionally damage ornamental plants. If you want to protect flower bulbs, cover the dirt above them with coarse-gauge wire screen. This provides room for the plants to grow, but prevents damage from digging rodents. In addition, planting non-edible flowers - like daffodils - is always an option.

Mice & Rats

- Deter rodents from places that can't be mouse- or rat-proofed (i.e., car engines) with a mixture of salad oil, horseradish, garlic and cayenne pepper. After letting the mixture sit four days, strain it into a spray bottle and apply to the desired area.
- Moth balls and peppermint oil-soaked cotton balls, when tucked around the engine, can prevent rodents from munching on electrical wires.

Pigeons

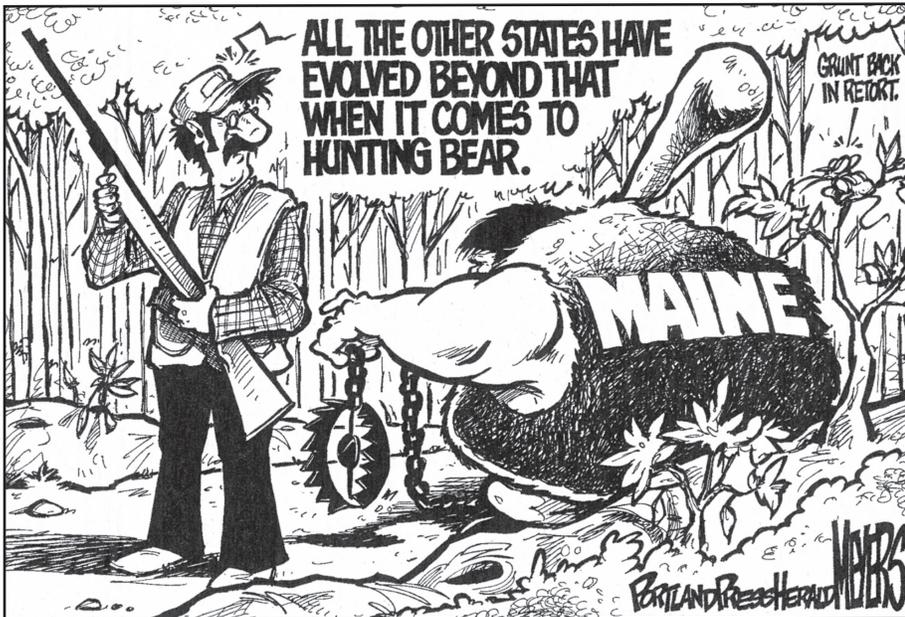
- Screens or netting can be used in attics, vents, and rafters to discourage birds from flying up into nooks and crannies. Wire coils or spikes on gutters, pipes, railings, or building edges prevent birds from perching there and sheet metal or boards set at an angle against flat surfaces will create a slope that pigeons can't grasp.

Raccoons & Skunks

- Skunks, along with raccoons, squirrels, moles and some birds, dig lawns and gardens in search of insect grubs. Eliminating the food source is the easiest way to resolve this problem. Commercial formulations of milky spore, the grub's natural enemy, are available and can be applied to affected soil.
- Avoid chemical pesticides and fertilizers since they can also harm beneficial organisms.

REMEMBER THESE GENERAL TIPS:

- Poisons, sticky glue traps, and snap traps cause birds, rodents, and other animals intense suffering and agonizing deaths. Poison is deadly to non-target animals, like protected species, pets, and predators that may eat the poisoned victim. Sticky material meant to make birds feel uncomfortable when landing on surfaces can trap smaller animals that touch it, causing them to break bones as they struggle, starve to death, or be picked apart by predators.
- If you use live traps, be sure to check them several times a day. Animals caught will be hungry, thirsty, and frightened and may die if left in the trap too long.
- An individual squirrel or other visitor inside your home? Don't panic: once you clear an escape route for it by opening a door or window, he'll usually leave on his own. Shut off any lights so the natural light from the open door or window will lead it back outside.
- If you discover a family of squirrels, raccoons, etc. nesting in or around your home, it is important not to separate the young from their parents. No animals should be removed until breeding season has ended. Not only is it inhumane to let the babies starve to death, but the mother will frantically try to reach her young and may damage your property in the process. Once you're certain the babies have left the nest, you can use a portable radio and/or a mechanic's light to evict the animals.
- Never use smoke or fire to drive animals out of chimneys. This will almost certainly kill young animals whether raccoons, squirrels, opossums or birds who are not physically able to leave on their own.
- Install a chimney cap and repair/seal attic or other openings.



MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

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