

WINTER 2013



MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

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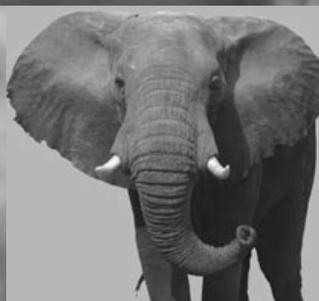
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Visit www.mfoa.net to view DVD
"MFOA's First 15 Years" or by
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A look back on 15 years *by Robert Fisk, Jr.*



Over the past 15 years, we have seen a lot happen in animal welfare in Maine. With a marked increase in education and advocacy, animal protection also moved into Maine's legislative arena. We have seen and advanced many positive changes, as attested to by our second place national rating for animal cruelty laws. We have also experienced

disappointing set backs, but through it all has come a major shift and understanding of many animal protection issues that were not even on the radar screen 15 years ago. Equally encouraging is the corresponding level of activism. MFOA alone has 1,500 members and supporters across the state.

In the 1980's, the state's Animal Welfare Board was an independent agency where animal welfare was rudimentary, but nonetheless presence. On that board were the early voices for animals: Lawrence Keddy (Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals) and Betty Sawyer of Jonesport. Unfortunately, the state's Animal Welfare Program (AWP) was a low priority in the Department of Agriculture and things got progressively worse for Maine companion animals. In the late 1990's, the public's outcry was overwhelming that the AWP was not doing enough in handling animal cruelty cases.

In 2001, emergency hearings and legislation brought about a revamping of the AWP with new director Norma Worley and an Animal Welfare Advisory Council (AWAC), resulting in significant improvements. AWAC Chairs Anne Jordan, Deb Clark, Christina Perkins and Sharon Secovich worked effectively with the AWP. AWAC is now plagued by poor attendance and too many members who have a financial interest in animals and miss meetings unless there is something on the agenda that affects their interests, which can supersede the mission of animal welfare. The AWP and its humane agents continues to lead the prosecutorial arm to Maine's animal protection.

In the early 1990's, Maine's only animal protection group was the Maine Animal Coalition (MAC), with a dynamic board comprised of Ken Shapiro, Linn Pulis, Toni Fiore, Sue Walker and myself, all of whom remain actively engaged in the cause. MAC continues to provide strong education and advocacy under the direction of Beth Gallie.

The genesis of Maine Friends of Animals (MFOA) in 1997 was in recognizing that there was no comprehensive voice for animals to bring the education and advocacy into legislation, especially in countering special-interest opponents. Bringing protest to policy. A second goal was to emphasize bringing animal welfare, animal protection and animal rights advocates together to be more effective. MFOA has submitted over 50 pieces of legislation in eight legislatures including 11 successful bills improving the lives of Maine's companion animals, particularly dogs. In addition, it has brought animal protection discussions

fully into the legislative realm.

One of MFOA's most memorable pieces of legislative action was the four-year campaign to ban circus elephants in the state. With an extraordinary effort by a Maine legislator on an animal protection bill, sponsor Rep. Chris Muse of South Portland helped lead the first in the nation passage (84-52 vote in the House) of a ban on circuses with elephants in a state, but the bill was ultimately defeated by the circus lobby in the Senate.

In recent years, national organizations such as the HSUS and the ASPCA have had a state presence, most notably when HSUS and MFOA teamed together on the bear referendum in 2004. Maine's animal shelters have for a long time engaged and occasionally sponsored legislation led by the well-organized Maine Federation of Humane Societies. And today there are many small groups like Spay Maine and individuals like Barbara Cross and Lynne Fracassi of Scarborough, speaking to municipalities about Maine pet stores that are selling dogs from mid-western puppy mills.

Wildlife issues, although often more egregious in cruelty, are more challenging for animal protection advocates in most states. Maine's wildlife decisions are made in an unholy alliance between the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, its legislative oversight committee, and the hunting lobby, all of which are connected politically, ideologically, financially and socially. Despite its close ties, our concerted efforts in confronting trapping, coyote snaring, bear hunting with bait, hounds and traps, and canned hunting has brought significant debate and public awareness to the real nature of these practices.

The pendulum is swinging our way albeit, like many social movements, too slowly. As noted above, the brightest hope for animals is the growth of the activism in the state and all the educational seeds that have been planted over the past 15 years, not only in the legislature, but in the minds of the general public at large and the media. As much as we confront cruelty and affect change, countless Maine animals still are needlessly suffering. The greater the effort we now put into what has been already been done, the sooner we will move our issues into mainstream thinking while continuing to make Maine a leader in animal protection.

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THANK YOU Jayne, Susanna, and Patti! for your many years of service on MFOA Board of Directors



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MFOA 'Pet Club' to go statewide!

Two years ago, in an effort to educate children about the importance of developing compassion, understanding and consideration of other species, Maine Friends of Animals initiated its concept of a 'Pet Club' for students in grades 3-5. MFOA teamed up with the Madison Elementary School to organize its first Pet Club. It was such a success that MFOA has created a model that we hope to introduce to elementary schools throughout the state.



The mission of the Pet Club is to advance student and community education regarding the care and protection of companion animals. A club information packet provides schools with a working model complete with guidelines on the structure, school involvement, issues, activities and benefits in instituting the program. In addition, MFOA provides ongoing support until the club has been successfully established. Ultimately, with the school and community, the goal is to teach children about the issues affecting pets, as well as the proper care and respect for our companion animals.

MFOA is seeking a grant to help facilitate the growth of its model statewide by adding new programs annually, as well as maintaining established Pet Clubs. A key component is finding the right school and, particularly, the right lead teacher. If you know a school and/or an elementary school teacher in your area that might like to learn more about forming a Pet Club, please have them contact MFOA at info@mfoa.net.

Pet Club Issues

- Care for companion animals
- "Dogs chained for life"
- Local shelters
- Companion animal cruelty education
- Pets left in cars
- Spay/neuter education
- Feral cats / homeless pets
- Animal rescue groups
- Firehouse pet oxygen masks
- Animal welfare and laws protecting animals
- Pet food drop-offs for needy families
- Learning about other companion animals like rabbits, hamsters, ferrets

MFOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Helping Maine Horses

MFOA has assembled various resources to help Maine horse owners. Contact MFOA on information on assistance in veterinarian care, feed, gelding, euthanasia, re-homing, composting, public education, adoption, and re-training. Below is a list for:

Rescue / Placement Assistance

4R Animal Shelter
202 Thomas Hill
Lee, Maine 04455
(207) 738-2248
www.4ranimalshelter.org

Animal Rescue Unit Rescue and Rehabilitation Center of Maine
North Bridgton, Maine
(207) 939-7852
Info@AnimalRescueUnit.com
www.animalrescueunit.com

CANTER New England
PO Box 3, Westborough, MA 01581
(781) 354-6291
www.canterusa.org

Double B Equine Rescue
997 West Mills Road
Industry, Maine 04938
(207) 778-6479
postmaster@mainehorserescue.com
www.mainehorserescue.com

Downeast Equine & Large Animal Society
PO Box 485, Hatchery Road
Cherryfield, Maine 04622
(207) 638-3005 or 598-7738

Ever After Mustang Rescue
463 West Street
Biddeford, Maine 04005
(207) 284-7721
everaftermustangrescue@gmail.com
www.mustangrescue.org

First Light Farm Equine Shelter
576 Shore Road, Perry, ME 04667
(207) 952-0325
1stlightfarm@gmail.com
galatea.meccahosting.com/~a0006635/index.htm

Last Stop Horse Rescue
J C Horse Farm, Joyce Pomeroy
938 Tar Ridge Road
Prentiss, Maine 04487
Laststophorserescue@hotmail.com
www.laststophorserescue.com

Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals
P.O. Box 10, 279 River Road
South Windham, Maine 04082
(207) 892-3040
www.msspa.org

Mountain Equine Rescue
Judi Merrifield, Director
Mount Pleasant Farm
885 Mt. Pleasant Road
Union, Maine 04862
(207) 785-4628
mtequinerescue@yahoo.com
www.mountainequinerescue.org

New England Equine Rescues (NEER)
www.newenglandequinerescues.com
Mary Martin: martinmaryd@comcast.net



Open Gates Equine Rescue, Inc.
407 Morse Road
New Gloucester, ME 04260
(207) 749-9028 or 749-9230
www.opengatesequinerescue.com



Rockin' T Equine Rescue
60 Edgecomb Road
Lisbon Falls, Maine 04252
(207) 353-6581
www.rockintequinerescue.com

Spirit of Hope Farm Equine Shelter & Rescue
Jen & Jess Winchester
853 Lebanon Road
Winterport, Maine 04496
(207) 223-4243
spiritofhopefarm@hotmail.com
spiritofhopefarm.tripod.com/

The Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Maine
Brenda Bryant, President
45 Old Falls Road
Kennebunk, Maine 04043
(207) 985-9144
bbriona@gmail.com
www.sphomaine.net

Maine and Horse Slaughter

For millenniums, the horse has changed mankind - the ways in which we travel, trade, play, work and fight wars have been profoundly shaped by our relationship with horses. By carrying people, goods, and ideas between civilizations, horses have changed and created history. The relationship between man and horse is unique. Unfortunately, their unparalleled stature and legacy cannot save them from the ultimate disrespect and cruelty of a slaughterhouse. Each year, approximately 1,500 horses are shipped from or through Maine to two slaughterhouses in Québec for human consumption in parts of Europe and Asia.



Domestic horse slaughter plants have been illegal in America since 2007 because the USDA did not have the resources to oversee inspections. Sadly, that ban was lifted a year ago, resulting in nation-wide concern that these facilities may re-open. MFOA is proposing legislation that not only bans the transport of horses from and through Maine to Canadian slaughter plants, but also prevents the establishment of these facilities in Maine.

Previous US horse slaughter facilities were foreign-owned with profits going overseas. In addition to environmental issues and hundreds of USDA violations, negative municipality impact includes an increase in illegal workers, offensive odors, property devaluation, increased crime (including horse theft), strains on local infrastructures, and extensive legal fees. Community administrators and local residents actively petitioned to shut a Kaufman, TX plant down, citing the extreme disregard for the welfare of the people and locale where it existed. The plant was closed in 2007, but six years later the community is still trying to recover from the damage done by the horse slaughter plant located there.

US horse slaughter plants have a well-documented history of negative environmental impacts and chronic inability to comply with local laws pertaining to waste management and air/water quality, resulting in hundreds of violations and fines. During 2004-2005, one plant in Texas incurred 481 EPA violations.

The meat of American horses may be too toxic to eat. Show and race horses are often given anti-anxiety and anti-inflammation medications, notably phenylbutazone, which poses potentially serious risks to human consumers. US horse racing is an industry still mired in a culture of drugs and inadequate regulation. Since profit, not animal welfare, is the priority, horses are drugged to enhance performance or allow the racing of an injured horse. If tainted meat were traced back to Maine, the financial cost and that of our reputation for quality products, such as blueberries, lobsters and potatoes, could be significant.

In its October 2010 audit of the slaughter horse transport program, the Office of Inspector General cited wide-spread, flagrant abuse of horses and lack of enforcement. Previous plants under USDA inspection had rampant cruelty violations, detailed in government documents. A recent Forbes article reveals routine suffering in a state-of-the-art horse slaughter plant in Canada.

Every aspect of slaughter is inhumane, from treatment at the auction, during transport, at feedlots and holding pens at the

plants, to the final cruel act. The Board of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association strongly supports a ban on the slaughter of thoroughbreds, labeling it "unconscionable," "gruesome," and "barbaric." Horses are sensitive, sentient, intelligent animals for which long-distance transport and the slaughter process are hugely distressing. Many horses are still conscious when they are shackled and hoisted by a rear leg to have their throats cut.

Many argue that "humane slaughter" is preferable to a horse slowly dying of neglect and abuse, or lack of food and proper shelter. "Humane slaughter" is the ultimate oxymoron as there is nothing remotely humane about the process of slaughtering a horse. Anyone leaving horses in neglect are subject to animal cruelty laws and should be reported to authorities.

The American Veterinary Medical Association defines the horse as a "companion animal," along with dogs and cats; many consider horses companion animals and find their slaughter ethically intolerable. They have not been bred in this country for food consumption as farm animals have. Today, horses are utilized for service, recreation and competition in the US and are defined as non-food producing animals by the Food & Drug Administration.

Alternatives to slaughter include: 1) supporting new and existing horse rescue facilities; 2) retraining and placing unwanted horses; 3) reducing over breeding; 4) approaching secondary horse industries to assist financially; 5) increasing public education regarding horse ownership; 6) developing and maintaining resources to assist horse owners with feed and veterinarian care; and 7) humane euthanasia.

If all channels are exhausted for saving and re-homing a horse, then 'humane euthanasia' should be the end result, certainly a better option than a death fraught with terror, pain and needless suffering. To that end, MFOA has previously proposed centrally located euthanasia clinics for horses, as well as composting sites for the carcasses to help decrease the cost of putting one's horse down. The expense for humane equine euthanasia and disposal is typically equal to one or two months' worth of its care - an expense that should be part of responsible horse ownership.

Opposition rhetoric is often, "If these animal-rights advocates pass anti-slaughter legislation for horses, then the next will be cows, chickens and pigs." It is a diversionary and false argument to classify this legislation as a conspiracy against all farm animals. This is about one issue and one issue only: the slaughter of horses for human consumption, which 80% of the American public opposes. Those 80% include former Maine Senator Olympia Snowe and Senator Susan Collins, who continue to be leaders in the national legislation against horse slaughter.

Horse slaughter is bad for the environment, bad for human health, bad for communities, bad for workers, and certainly bad for the horses. No animal that has served mankind so long, so well, so nobly, and in so many capacities, deserves such a fate. It is time to end Maine's complicity in the practice of slaughtering horses.

Bills propose laws to help dogs' life get a little better



Bill puts more teeth in dog protection
New rule would require time off leash



Group to help chained dogs
Animal protection launches abuse campaign



Successful MFOA Legislation Protecting Companion Animals, Particularly Dogs

1998: Lobbied for legislation that prevented the pari-mutuel simulcast wagering of greyhound racing in Maine

1999: Passed legislation to increase animal cruelty penalties from a misdemeanor to a felony offense

2000: Led the fight to revamp Maine's Animal Welfare Program and the formation of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, making it more effective in responding to animal cruelty cases

2003: Passes legislation that requires dogs in the 'back of pick-up trucks' be secured so that they cannot fall, jump or be thrown from an open vehicle

2003: 3 MFOA members move to form 'Spay Maine,' a program designed to reduce cat and dog euthanasia, which was subsequently incorporated into the state Animal Welfare Program

2006: Raised public awareness of dog cruelty cases through press releases, demonstrations and the use of the media

2006: Passed the first legislation in the nation addressing 'Dogs Chained for Life,' establishing greater requirements for dogs left outside on a continuous basis

2007: Made 'Dogs Chained for Life' an ongoing program with education materials, a TV public service announcement, and office assistance in securing the release of a DCFL

2007: Sponsored legislation, which became law in 2011, requiring that a bittering agent be added to anti-freeze to help prevent poisoning of pets and wildlife

2010: Partnered with Madison Elementary School to develop a 'Pet Club' model for elementary schools, teaching children about the responsibilities, care and protection of companion animals. Currently securing grant monies to make it a statewide program for 3rd-5th graders.

2011: Sponsored successful legislation that provides greater response for first responders in the protection for overheated animals left in unattended vehicles.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We want to thank those who have donated financially to Maine Friends of Animals. 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. All donations are tax deductible.

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

THANK YOU all who have joined MFOA over the years in our common quest to end animal abuse in Maine in its many forms. We have accomplished much in the way of education, advocacy and legislation, but unfortunately there remains a great deal more to be done to end animal suffering and cruelty in Maine. Fifteen years has given MFOA a tested structure and credibility with the legislature, media and the general public, and we feel positioned to increase the scope and effectiveness of what we do. The only limit is the corresponding funding. You will make a difference by renewing your membership to MFOA by sending in your donation, large or small, that will help increase our ability to protect and aid those that are being needlessly harmed by humans. Donate today and join us in giving Maine animals a voice.

How you can help ban horse slaughter in, from and through Maine!

Support: *"An Act to Protect Maine Communities from Environmental Hazards by Prohibiting Horse Slaughter in Maine for Human Consumption and the Transport of Horses for Slaughter"*

Know the issues: Visit: www.mfoa.net/legislation_campaigns.html and view Maine and Horse Slaughter 'Fact Sheet'

Contact your State Representative and Senator at: www.maine.gov/legis/

A letter and brief follow-up call are best; e-mail and follow-up a couple of weeks later is also effective. Be brief, accurate, courteous and to the point - a single page letter is most effective. Refer them

to the MFOA Fact Sheet. Remember to state your opinion in a professional, factual and respectful manner.

Write or e-mail members of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation: www.maine.gov/legis/house/jt_com/acf.htm

Encourage like-minded friends and associates to contact their legislators and give them these guidelines.

Write a letter-to-the-editor to your local daily and weekly newspapers; they can be similar to the letter you write your legislators (with similar guidelines). Be sure to note the bill in your letter.

How to Build a Winter Shelter for Stray Cats

Materials needed are: a large Rubbermaid storage bin, an eight foot by two foot sheet of one-inch thick hard Styrofoam, a yardstick, a box cutter or utility knife, and straw, shredded newspaper or other insulating material. Then assemble as follows:



The CSM Winter Shelter

- Cut a doorway six inches by six inches in one of the long sides of the storage bin towards the corner. To prevent flooding, cut the opening so that the bottom of the doorway is several inches above the ground.
- Line the floor of the bin with a piece of Styrofoam, using the yardstick and box cutter to cut out the piece.
- In similar fashion, line each of the four interior walls of the bin with a piece of the Styrofoam. Perfect cuts are not necessary. Don't make the Styrofoam go all the way up to the top of the

bin, but leave a uniform gap of at least three inches between the top of these Styrofoam "wall pieces" and the upper lip of the bin. There needs to be room for an interior Styrofoam "roof" to fit.

- Cut out a doorway in the Styrofoam where it is lined up with the doorway that has been cut out already in the storage bin. Trace the outline of the doorway on the Styrofoam first before cutting.
- Stuff the bottom of the bin with straw or other insulating material to hold the Styrofoam interior wall pieces in place.
- Cut out a Styrofoam "roof" to rest on top of the Styrofoam interior wall pieces.
- Cover the bin with its lid.

This shelter can be cleaned by taking off the lid and the Styrofoam roof. It's also lightweight and may need to be weighed down. A flap over the doorway is optional. Catnip can be sprinkled inside at first to attract the cats.

Re-printed with permission from the CSM Stray Foundation



SUPPORT THE BEAR PROTECTION ACT

Sponsor:

Senator Edward Mazurek

This Maine legislation would:

- Ban bear trapping
- Ban bear hounding
- Prohibits trade in bear parts (gallbladders)
- Spring bear hunting restrictions
- Felony offense for repeat bear poaching



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- Reducing Dog Bites

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