From its inception, OMNI has been a defender of human rights, aligning itself with the ACLU, Center for Constitutional Rights, Amnesty International, and similar organizations. We are now redefining ourselves as a Species Rights organization. How might such an organization be described?

See Newsletter on Cross-Species Friendships

Contents of #1 March 26, 2011
Animal Rights
Film: Earthlings
Books:
  Operation Bite Back
  The Bond
Humane Society Global Work: Haiti, Reefs
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Contents of #2
Winograd: No Kill (see OMNI newsletters versus killing)
Catalonia Bans Bull Fighting Center for Biological Diversity
Ben Franklin: Up with Wild Turkeys
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Books: Slaughterhouses:
  Striffler, Chicken
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Henry Bergh, Defender of Animals
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The Fund for Animals

Is pet overpopulation a myth? Inside Nathan Winograd's "Redemption"

October 02, 2007|By Christie Keith, Special to SF Gate

Nathan Winograd is the author of "Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution"
In the still-heated debate over reducing shelters deaths in California, there is probably no more polarizing figure than Nathan Winograd, former director of operations for the San Francisco SPCA.

At first glance, Winograd has all the credentials any animal rights activist or shelter professional could ask for. He's a vegan. He left a lucrative career as a prosecuting attorney to devote himself to helping animals. Last year, his income was only $35,000. He has spearheaded the No Kill Advocacy Center, a national organization aimed at ending the killing of pets in animal shelters. While director of operations at the San Francisco SPCA, he worked with then-president Richard Avanzino to implement a wide variety of animal livesaving programs, and then went on to achieve similar success as director of a rural shelter in upstate New York.

But Winograd isn't making a lot of friends in the shelter industry these days. That's because he authored a book called "Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution in America" that challenges the very foundation of nearly every theory and principle of shelter management in this country: The idea that there are more pets dying in shelters each year than homes available for those pets.

In fact, with between 4 and 5 million dogs and cats being killed in shelters nationwide every year, denying the existence of pet overpopulation seems ridiculous. If there aren't more pets than homes, why are so many animals ending up in shelters in the first place?

Conventional wisdom tells us it's because of irresponsible pet owners who aren't willing to work to keep their pets in their homes. It's a failure of commitment, of caring, and of the human/animal bond. If fewer pets were born, there would be fewer coming into shelters. If people cared more about their pets, they wouldn't give them up so easily, would spay and neuter them so they wouldn't reproduce, and wouldn't let them stray.

That is exactly what I always believed, too, for the nearly 17 years I've been writing about pets. And yet, after reading "Redemption," I don't believe it anymore.


CLIMATE CHANGE AND SPECIES EXTINCTIONS

Climate Change, Extinction, and a Green Economy:

My Response to Anti-Palestinian
Tikkun's Environmental Justice Newsletter

Tikkun's latest coverage of environmental issues addresses some of the many priorities facing the environmental movement including climate change, extinction, and the promotion of a green economy. Our authors weigh in with different perspectives on how the movement ought to proceed. Some also contribute soulful reflections on how our culture and society need to change in order to save our planet and honor our deepest values.

**Why Extinction Matters at Least as Much as Climate Change**  
*by Allen Kanner*

The use of climate change as the primary symbol of the environmental movement is likely to backfire. In fact, it is already beginning to do so. Complimentary symbols and images that highlight different dimensions of the crisis and broaden the spectrum of people’s reactions and actions are needed. Otherwise, we are apt to fall back into old patterns and practices that have already proven fatal.  
[Read More »]

**We Are All Facing Extinction**  
*by Susan Griffin*

Denial is a central part of the pattern by which our civilization has created the illusion that we are not part of nature, not subject to natural process, and that in any case we can control nature by meeting every challenge with technological innovation.  
[Read More »]

**Transforming the Economy: Linking Hands Across the Social and Environmental Divide**  
*by Helena Norberg-Hodge*

If we are to have any chance of bringing about meaningful change, we urgently need to broaden and deepen our analysis. Climate change and extinction are both too narrow. We need to move beyond ecological concerns to reach out to the ever-larger proportion of society focused on eradicating injustice and poverty.  
[Read More »]

**Earth Democracy and the Rights of Mother Earth**  
*by Vandana Shiva*

What is the “green economy” and what is the “institutional framework for sustainable development”? If the answers are offered in the old paradigm of the market-driven solutions that have failed to protect the earth, “green economy” will mean more of the same. It will mean more
carbon trading, which has failed to reduce emissions. It will mean more commodification of food and water, land and biodiversity, which has failed to reduce hunger and thirst, poverty and ecological degradation and has instead increased it.

Read More »

A Community Perspective on the Rights of Nature
by Shannon Biggs
Those of us working on the rights-of-nature framework are seeking to reconnect humanity with the rest of species. We seek to change human law that can only “see” nature as a thing — separate and apart from us, property to be owned and destroyed at will. We seek to change the law because our own salvation can only come from a cultural mindset that we are a part of nature.

Read More »

The Loss and Recovery of Relatives
by Winona LaDuke
The decline of the sturgeon mirrored a decline in the Anishinaabeg. Many of our people died from tuberculosis, influenza, or perhaps just sorrow. It is said that Native people suffer from an unresolved historic grief. It is the grief of a holocaust that occurred on this continent but is largely unrecognized.

Read More »

GOOD NEWS: A GREAT DAY FOR BULLS
After five centuries of bullfighting, Barcelona and the state of Catalonia have banned the cruel entertainment. In 2010, 180,000 people signed a petition condemning the practice.

Center for Biological Diversity  http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/
kieran@biologicaldiversity.org  No. 595, December 15, 2011
Seattle Joins National Clean Air Cities Campaign
Help Stop the Wolf Slaughter
Feds Turn Blind Eye, Once More, to BP Oil Disaster
Dear Dick,

Happy New Year from all of us at the Center for Biological Diversity.

We wanted to take a moment after the holiday rush to reflect on the many endangered species successes of 2011 -- and share our thanks to you for helping make them all possible.

I hope you'll take two minutes to watch this video from us highlighting the Center's accomplishments last year and looking ahead to 2012.

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/support/thanks/2012/supporters.html

With your many actions, we grew to more than 320,000 members and online supporters last year. In 2011, your commitment and enthusiasm for protecting imperiled species and wildlands led to 1.3 million actions -- emails, phone calls, letters and faxes to decision makers -- to save the diversity of life on Earth. Thank you.

You've helped us become the most effective endangered species protection group in the nation, taking swift action in the most challenging situations, like our emergency intervention last fall to successfully stop the killing of two wolves in Oregon, our fight against outrageous attacks against the Endangered Species Act in Congress and our path-breaking campaign to highlight human overpopulation.

Please watch our video and ring in the New Year, celebrating with us these 2011 highlights:

   the biggest, most exciting agreement in the history of the Endangered Species Act, won by the Center last July to move 757 species closer to protection;

   6 million acres of finalized federally protected critical habitat for imperiled species, including 2 million for Alaska's Cook Inlet beluga whale;

   9 million acres of proposed protected habitat for species like the Hawaiian monk seal and woodland caribou;

   filing the largest lawsuit ever to address 400 pesticides' impacts on more than 200 imperiled species; and

   beating back attacks by the state of Alaska to strip the polar bear of Endangered Species Act protections.

Happy New Year, and thank you for being an online activist.

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Happy New Year 2012 From the Center for Biological Diversity

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Happy New Year and Thank You
TURKEYS NOT EAGLES FOR NATIONAL BIRD

Gobble Gobble by Cathryn Falwell. 2011

A child observes wild turkeys through the seasons, and we learn about this ancient bird. For young children. Check out Ben Franklin’s preference for the wild turkey over eagles as the national bird.


My Life as a Turkey. PBS/AETN Nov. 16, 2011. Also available on dvd. A nature writer and filmographer mothers over a dozen wild turkeys for a year, learning their individual personalities and their language over a wide range of experiences. A powerful assertion of animal sentience and a strong case for protection of all species.

BOOKS

--Kathy Rudy. Loving Animals: Toward a New Animal Advocacy. U of Minnesota P, 2011. Improving the lives of animals through emotional connection and empathy. Loving Animals argues that to achieve such goals as ending animal testing and factory farming, activists need to better understand the profound emotional attachment many people have with animals. Offering an alternative to both the acceptance of animal exploitation and radical animal liberation, Kathy Rudy shows that a deeper understanding of this emotional bond can redefine the human–animal relationship.

“Loving Animals should be read by everyone who is concerned about the ethics of our relationship with animals. It provides a philosophical middle ground between extreme views on each side of the animal rights issue.” Temple Grandin, author of Animals in Translation

BOOKS ON SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The Unitarian who founded societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals and children.

Henry Bergh, born on August 29, 1813, and passed away on March 12, 1888, was a Unitarian who played a significant role in the founding of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. His commitment to animal welfare stemmed from witnessing cruelties in the streets of St. Petersburg in 1863, which sparked his humanitarian impulse. Bergh witnessed the suffering of animals and was moved to action, alongside his contemporaries, to advocate for their rights.

Bergh's early life did not reflect a passion for animals or children. He was a dilettante playwright and had no pets or children. His concerns for animal welfare were ignited by witnessing the maltreatment of animals. He believed in the moral question of whether animals could feel pain and suffering, aligning with Unitarian legal scholar Jeremy Bentham's assertion that the moral question is not, "Can [animals] reason? nor , Can they talk? but, Can they suffer?"

Bergh's work was not limited to animal welfare. He also fought for the rights of children and was involved in international diplomatic efforts. His activism extended to various realms of compassion, demonstrating his commitment to social justice.

Bergh's industriousness knew few bounds. He developed slings for injured horses and clay pigeons for shooting matches. Uninvited, he waded into legislatures in white spats and slaughterhouses in his efforts to prevent cruelty.
rubber boots. Criticized for tending animals rather than people, he replied that if animals had to await mercy until human affairs were resolved, they would still be waiting at the Second Coming. In 1874, Bergh learned of a nine-year-old girl beaten daily by her stepmother. No person or agency would intervene in a family matter. Bergh not only effected Mary Ellen's rescue, but developed the first U.S. law shielding children from domestic abuse. He called for a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; when no one replied, he created it himself. Newspapers called his innovation "preposterous," under headlines like "Legislation Running Mad!" and "Leave Our Children Alone!"

The Fund for Animals

The Fund for Animals was founded in 1967 by prominent author and animal advocate Cleveland Amory. For 37 years, The Fund has spearheaded some of the most significant events in the history of the animal protection movement by employing hard-hitting advocacy campaigns and operating world-famous animal care facilities like the Black Beauty Ranch.

The Fund's historic victories have saved thousands of animals from cruelty and suffering.

In 2005, The Fund for Animals and The Humane Society of the United States joined together to form an unprecedented partnership for animals. Since then The Fund has expanded its efforts to protect animals in the courts and provide for their veterinary, sanctuary, and rehabilitative needs at direct animal care facilities.

The Fund has won landmark lawsuits to protect animals from hunting and trapping, and the organization is currently fighting for animals with the help of the Animal Protection Litigation section. This group of full-time attorneys, law clerks, and pro bono law firms are defending animals in federal and state courts from cruelty and abuse. The Fund's current cases seek to protect endangered species, stop the abuse of circus elephants, keep national wildlife refuges safe for animals, and much more.

The Fund's direct animal care operations provide veterinary treatment for thousands of animals year-round, while training volunteers and supporting their local communities.

- Renamed the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch to memorialize The Fund's late founder, this flagship sanctuary is a permanent refuge for more than 1,300 animals on 1,300 acres in the rolling hills of east Texas.
- The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center in Southern California provides year-round medical and rehabilitative care to injured and orphaned wildlife and specializes in native predator species such as bobcats, coyotes and eagles.
- The Cape Wildlife Center in Cape Cod, Massachusetts provides emergency care as well as long-term rehabilitation to wild animals from across the southeastern corner of the state. The center also assists the community with humane solutions to wildlife difficulties, and along with other education programs, sponsors an externship program for students interested in veterinary medicine and/or wildlife rehabilitation.
- Duchess Sanctuary is a 1,120-acre facility south of Eugene, Ore., established in 2008 as an oasis for about 200 formerly abused, abandoned, neglected and homeless horses. Mares rescued from the pregnant mare urine – or PMU – industry and their offspring make up the majority of the herd at the sanctuary. Other residents include orphaned mustangs as well as horses rescued from auctions and feedlots.
- The Rabbit Sanctuary, Inc. offers "hope for the hopeless" and a home for rescued rabbits in Simpsonville, South Carolina; it is supported by The Fund for Animals and The Humane Society of the United States.

The Fund for Animals and The HSUS enhanced their public policy work in 2005 by forming the Humane Society Legislative Fund, which is working to pass laws protecting animals in Congress and in all 50 states.

As a nonprofit charity, The Fund for Animals' work is made possible by the support of caring members and friends. Employment opportunities are available occasionally. From classroom to courtroom, from clinic to sanctuary, The Fund is working to carry on Cleveland Amory's legacy "to speak for those who can't."