



The Alliance for Animals

Animal News

Wisconsin's Voice for Animals Since 1985

June/July 2012

Dane County Board Bans Elephant Acts

"This is a step in the right direction - the direction of ending cruelty against elephants at Dane County facilities."

Supervisor Al Matano, District 11.

On the evening of June 7, 2012, Dane County became the first Wisconsin community in history to ban the exhibition of elephants for amusement or entertainment. The County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance amendment introduced nearly a year ago by Supervisor Matano banning such exhibitions by a vote of 23 to 9.

No new elephant acts shall be allowed at the county's auditorium or exhibition center. Current county contracts with Zor Shrine, which brings the George Carden Circus to Madison every year, however, shall be honored until the final contract runs out in 2020. AFA is exploring other options for stopping this last gasp of cruelty.

Supervisor Matano has pledged that he and other members of the

Dane County Board will monitor the elephants when they are in Madison.

Opposition for the ban, which came largely from circus supporters outside of Wisconsin, was greatly overshadowed by local public support.



This month's passage of the ban marks the beginning of the end to an era that included many years of AFA-organized public protests, leafleting, USDA complaints, and vigilant monitoring of elephants at the county's Alliant Energy Center when the circus came to town.

The legislative effort was initiated in February of 2011 when AFA representatives Rick Bogle and Julie Grosso presented the case

for an elephant ban to the general membership of Progressive Dane and received a unanimous vote in favor of an immediate ban on elephant performances.

AFA will continue its vigilance in 2013 and beyond in other communities around the state. The elephants deserve our time and energy.

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Empowering Volunteers - A Win-Win Situation!

Tell us not what AFA ought to do, but what you will do for the animals.



This loose paraphrase of John F. Kennedy's famous quote summarizes the reasons behind two amazing steps forward on the path to a more compassionate world.

Almost two years ago, a young woman named Hannah West contacted us out of the blue. She thought that Madison

ought to have a vegan festival like one she had attended in Portland, Oregon. Best of all, she wasn't telling AFA to do it, she was just asking for some help to get it started. Very exciting.

AFA was thrilled to be able to help her. We helped with marketing

and PR, offered assistance and advice, and introduced Hannah to other volunteers and those in the local vegan community. We were able to kick start the project with a little seed money - and the Mad City Vegan Fest was born.

With just two part-time employees, a handful of volunteers, and too many irons in the fire, Alliance for Animals simply didn't have the resources to spearhead such a big project. But we certainly had the ability to provide her with some support and encouragement, which we did with gusto.

Before long her dream (and ours) became a reality. Between last year's and last month's successful vegan fests, over 2000 people have learned about a vegan lifestyle from exciting and inspirational nationally-known speakers, sampled vegan foods and products from local restaurants and national vendors, and saw first-hand

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A newsletter from
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Elephant Ban

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AFA sends a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to come out and speak for the elephants, wrote their supervisors, or sent in photos of support, and to all 23 County Supervisors who voted in favor of the elephant ban. Eloquent oral testimony came from citizens of Dane County, members of the County Board, and members of Alliance for Animals.

We especially wish to thank Supervisor Al Matano for his courage in introducing the ban and for his steady efforts to see it passed. Many people worked toward this landmark change in county policy; we thank them all. The animals are fortunate to have them working on their behalf.

Please thank your supervisor if he/she cast

one of the important votes in favor of this amendment. If you do not know how your supervisor voted, email us at alliance@allanimals.org. Also visit our Legislation page for contact information. www.allanimals.org/legislators.html.



Singer, guitarist Andrew Miller of The Free Sweets - just one of several elephant ban supporters.

Update on Maternal Deprivation at UW

In our last newsletter we reported that Allyson Joy Bennett, an experimental psychologist who recently arrived from Wake Forest University, had begun a project using the maternal deprivation of baby rhesus monkeys. That was an error.

Bennett is using a group of monkeys still housed at Wake Forest. Those monkeys were raised using maternal deprivation at the NIH Animal Center in Poolesville, Maryland. Bennett has co-authored a handful of papers detailing the things she and her colleagues have done to monkeys born in Poolesville who were then maternally deprived; none of the experiments have been intended to benefit them.

These animals have been abused from the day they were born and continue to have their lives manipulated in ways intended to harm them further. A public records requests for Bennett's NIH-funded/UW-Madison-approved protocol remains unfulfilled.

Unfortunately, there *is* a project at the university that has apparently begun maternally depriving baby monkeys. We believe the researcher is Ned Kalin, chair of the psychiatry department at the UW-Madison medical school. The coincidental start-up of these two particularly cruel projects, one based on, and the other using maternal deprivation, caused us some confusion.

Kalin has a long history of identifying particularly anxious young monkeys and frightening them with a snake, strangers in lab coats, and/or large male monkeys; damaging parts of their brains; and frightening them again to see whether the burned away part of their brain might have had something to do with their fearfulness.

We have requested a copy of this mystery protocol three times in various ways, but have yet to receive it. Whatever the details turn out to be, internal discussions about it at the university have been heated. We will keep you informed.

Volunteers

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how many of their neighbors are getting involved. Wow.

A year ago Hannah became AFA's Vegan Outreach Coordinator and writes the popular, informative, and upbeat weekly Simply Vegan newsletter. All this because one young woman came to us and said she had a dream she was prepared to work toward, and that she wanted AFA's help to make it a reality.

And then, there's the recent landmark, first-in-the-state, Dane County ban on the exhibitions of elephants for amusement or entertainment - that's legalese for elephants in circuses.

Two years ago, three eager friends of animals contacted us and said they wanted to get active and help us fight for the animals. One of them was Julie Grosso. We suggested they look at the use of elephants in the circus. Almost overnight, Julie became an expert on elephants in entertainment. Really.

The issue consumed her. She methodically studied the history and current use of elephants. Paying her own way, Julie took time off from her job to travel to Thailand to learn more about wild elephants. She then attended a national conference on elephant care. She became very well-informed on the history of USDA violations and was quickly fluent and knowledgeable about which circus was using which elephants in this dark constantly shifting world of cruelty.

With her newly acquired knowledge of elephants she was able to point out what to look for when the elephants from the George Carden Circus arrived in Madison to perform at the Zor Shrine

Circus. Julie organized volunteers and made sure that the elephants were photographed and videoed at each performance. She then used this evidence in complaints to the USDA, which led to formal citations against the circus for their poor care of the elephants.

And throughout all of this, Julie was intimately involved in our efforts to see a ban on the exhibition of elephants introduced at the county government level. Her diligently acquired knowledge, organizing, and the resulting citations that resulted from her USDA complaints combined to add great weight to our push for the recently passed ban.

Neither the Dane County ban on the exhibition of elephants nor the Mad City Vegan Fest would have been possible without people stepping forward and asking AFA to help them make a difference. They didn't ask AFA to do it alone, they said, "Help me make a difference," and we did.

AFA could not have helped them without the strong generous support of people who care about animals. The Mad City Vegan Fest and the Dane County Elephant Ban would have remained just wishful thinking without AFA's help and resources - resources made possible by the generous donations that come from you, our members. Together, we really can make a difference.



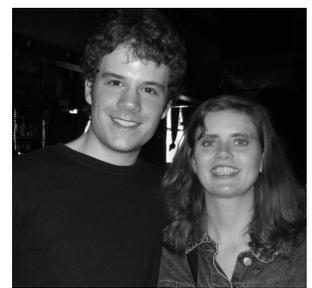
Faces of AFA and AFA Supporters



Thank you to Mad City Rollin' Dolls for choosing Alliance for Animals as a charity for their 2012 season. AFA had a table at the championship bout on May 5. We all agree that Rollin' Dolls fans are awesome!



Colleen Patrick-Goudreau with AFA board member Charlie Talbert at Mad City Vegan Fest.



Rock for the Elephants concert emcee Branden O'Connor and organizer Carrell Casey.



Vegan Bake Sale coordinator Kristie Chijimatsu with husband EJ.



Lynn Pauly, Lesley Crocker, and AFA board member Marina Drake at Rock for the Elephants at High Noon Saloon.



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Tributes

In memory of Tasha: TO A LIFE WELL LIVED. May all cats be as lucky. With much love Jenny and Chandy.



In memory of Harry Nelson from Bernice Oberbeck.

To my last bright loyal fun-loving miniature schnauzer Coti, named for creator-god of the Serengeti tribe of Africa, by Shirley Kaub.

In memory of my special little cat Louisa and all animals who have suffered in leghold traps.

by Karolina Johnson.

In memory of Kary Rose Hibner, a generous and dedicated friend to AFA. Her work with companion animals will not be forgotten.



Kary Hibner

**Tributes of 20 words or less will be listed for a donation of \$25 or more. Pictures welcomed. Visit our Support page at www.allanimals.org or include your tribute in the enclosed envelope.*

Are you receiving duplicates of AnimalNews or would you prefer not to receive our newsletter? Please let us know! Email Lynn at lynn.afa@gmail.com.

Public Kudos to Dane Co. Sups

Capital Times June 12, 2012

Members of the Dane County Board took the time to learn how elephants used in circuses are trained and handled and about the conditions they are forced to endure.

The board deserves praise for adding Dane County to the large and fast-growing list of U.S. communities and countries around the world that have banned the use of elephants in circuses.

No one who takes the time to look into the use of elephants in circuses can have any doubt about the cruelty involved in training them or great suffering these animals are forced to endure.

- Rick Bogle, Madison

And some anonymous comments (all spelling and grammar left in its original form). . .

"You have to be kidding me. Animals are meant to enteratin and be eaten. They have no souls."

"How different is this than UW football where we watch a different species of large mammal perform for us? They too are mistreated while mistreating each other, they too are injured, sometimes permantly and many are 'forced' to perform with pain week after week."