Dogfighting: Extreme Cruelty to Animals

by Daniel Birk

Dogfighting as a “sport” is not dead. In fact, it is flourishing in many parts of U.S. inner cities as part of a subculture of accepted violence toward animals. The recent NFL Michael Vick case has shined a light on dogfighting operations almost unheard of a few decades ago.

Since ancient times, dogfighting matches have occurred in society, especially at the Roman Coliseum and in ancient Athens. In Elizabethan England, bull- and bear-baiting contests featured tethered “bait” (a bear or bull) with numerous dogs biting and wrestling with the poor burly creature for the amusement of the crowd. By the late 19th century, however, laws were made to deter such violent activities in Europe.

In the U.S., dogfighting was sanctioned and promoted during the colonial period (1600-1776) and continued through the late 19th Century. The United Kennel Club even promoted the blood sport as part of American culture. It wasn’t until 1976 that it finally was outlawed in all states, but enforcement was lax. In the late 20th century dogfighting became more popular in poor areas of major U.S. cities.

The pit bull is the most popular fighting dog, but Dobermans and Rottweilers are also used, and foreign breeds like Dogo Argentino (South America) and Presa Canario (Spain) are gaining popularity. In the past two decades, the blood sport has become a “status symbol” among street gangs. Generally, much money can be made by promoters and dogfighters despite the illegal nature of this so-called “sport.”

(...continued, see DOGFIGHTING, p. 4)

Good Advice from Dr. Greek

by Timothy Garrett

Dr. Ray Greek is a retired anesthesiologist from Southern California who devotes his life to educating the public about animal testing—not only that animal experiments are unnecessary, but also how they have resulted in both direct and indirect harm to humans. During the latter part of September, Dr. Greek paid a visit to Madison to take time to meet with legislators and their aides to explain why non-human animals are not good models of human disease and that experimenting on them does not ensure that drugs are safe and effective for humans.

In 1999, Dr. Greek and his wife Jean Swingle Greek, DVM, created the organization Americans for Medical Advancement (AFMA). While they haven’t succeeded in changing public policy yet, they have made many strides in education.

(...continued, see DR. GREEK, p. 5)
Dear friends and supporters,

Another year has come and gone, and all of us keep plugging away for the animals as best we can. Thank you for your efforts and for your compassion for all beings!

We had our first Outstanding Activist Tribute Dinner this year, honoring long-time activist, teacher, mentor, Alliance for Animals member, and cat rescuer Helene Dwyer (see the article in this newsletter for more about the event). She absolutely deserves recognition for her amazing efforts over the many years. In addition, we all deserve recognition for our efforts; therefore, acknowledgment of all of our activism was a central part of the Tribute Dinner. I want to repeat some of the words I said that night about the activism each of us participate in. While my words were in no way novel, I believe they are important to hear as often as possible:

“Every one of us has something special about him or her, and I want you all to take a moment to think about what your gift is. Please, just take a moment right now to do that. Now, remember what that special talent is, and believe in yourself and your ability to affect change. And I ask you to take that talent - whatever it is - and use it in whatever way you can for the animals. If you are already doing that, and many of you are, I ask you to step it up. Know that what you offer the world is unique, and that you CAN and DO make a difference.”

So, as we enter 2008, remember those words and push your own distinctive type of activism to a new level. With each of us continuing our activism in our own important way, the animals will be better off. Happy holidays and Happy New Year!

In Honor and in Memory of

Thank you to all those who remembered a special person or animal with a donation to the Alliance for Animals. This is a wonderful way to honor someone special and help animals at the same time.

In Memory Of...

- Tom “Big Bear” Poth, loved by Audrey. Donation given by Violet French.
- Dreamer, a puppy mill rescue; donation given by Rose Pickering.
- Millie, beloved dog friend to Rick Bogle and Lynn Pauly, from Betsy Munro.
- Daisie, beloved dog friend to Pamela Hathaway and Lucie Ferrari, from Betsy Munro and Lori Nitzel.
- A donation was given in the memory of Margaret Shogrin Arena, by friends of her daughter Lesley Arena Crocker: Betsy Munro, Diane Iverson, Ann Emerson, Rick Bogle, Lynn Pauly, Ranee Goodroad, Susan Williams, Denise DeSerio, and Terry O’Laughlin.
Along with the Dane County Humane Society and the Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project, the Alliance for Animals co-sponsored a roundtable discussion on November 15 about the puppy mill problem in Wisconsin. Many people turned out to show their support of state legislation regulating the sale and breeding of companion animals.

Eilene Ribbens Rohde, the founder and director of the Puppy Mill Project and a wonderful speaker, gave a presentation about the abuse and neglect involved in this underground-and often very cruel-industry. Several puppy mill dogs, now in loving homes, were also in attendance.

Unfortunately, those who weren’t in attendance were the topic of much discussion - our state legislators. Sixteen senators and representatives from the southern Wisconsin area were invited but not one attended. After an email and snail mail invitation, only the staff of Rep. Pocan and Rep. Davis bothered to respond to say why they couldn’t attend. A phone call to each legislator’s office the week of the event produced nothing but the same response over and over again: none of the legislators could or would attend. None were willing to send a staff member either, and when asked, not even one offered to send a statement!

Please let your legislators know how much you care about this issue by calling them and asking that they support legislation regulating the sale and breeding of companion animals. Two bills are currently circulating in the legislature right now, and they are not sufficient to stop the cruelty, abuse and neglect! They are simply “puppy lemon laws.” Please tell your legislators not to support the “Wisconsin Dog Purchaser Protection Act,” SB 308/AB 567. We need more than an after-the-fact lemon law for pet buyers! For more information, see www.nowisconsinpuppymills.com.

A puppy mill rescue dog watches from the lap of her person.

Not one of the sixteen state legislators we invited showed up.

Senator Mark Miller’s staffperson told us that Senator Miller was considering sending a statement because he couldn’t make it, but the staffperson never called us back to give us the statement.

Representative Joe Parisi, from Madison’s east side, seems to care about animals. Because of this, it was a surprise when he and his office staff didn’t even call, email, or write us back about the event when we contacted them.
Normal, most of the dogs taken from a surrendered dogfighting operation are euthanized because they are deemed too unstable from participating in violent dog matches. They can be scarred, have dislodged eyes, bruised noses, and half-torn limbs from their struggles in the matches.

The reaction:

Animal rights groups are hoping the news of these dogfighting rings will bring effective enforcement of the laws. Wayne Pacelle, CEO of the Humane Society of the U.S., states that the “only good that can come out in this case is that the American people dedicate themselves to rooting out dogfighting where it thrives.”

Politicians have weighed in also, with Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia stating on the Senate floor that it is “inhuman, and dastardly” to train and sell fighting dogs. Sen. John Kerry wrote to the NFL that dogfighting “is one of society’s most barbaric and inhumane activities.”

But Vick’s complicity is not uncommon in America. There are reported dog rings nearly everywhere. Another dogfighting case in Chicago in July 2007, found police rescuing 37 fighting dogs from the village of South Holland. It was the “largest seizure of fighting dogs in state history”, according to Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart.

“Dogfighting is illegal for a reason,” John Goodwin, a dogfighting expert with the U.S. Humane Society says, “It’s a severe form of cruelty.” Goodwin notes that local humane shelters are finding more evidence of dogfighting. One-third of the dogs are pit bulls, he said, showing scars of fighting. He added that there are a dozen underground dogfighting magazines like “Sporting Dog Journal” and “Match Night” and a half dozen others that are exclusively used for dogfighting and for fans of the blood sport.

Pit bulls are used because they are seen as strong, compact, agile and impervious to pain. However, pit bull lovers say the breed has been trained for hundreds of years for selective aggression and the guardians themselves are to blame for such illegal training activities. The Louisiana SPCA states that pit bulls can be 100% retrained.

A database by advocacy group Pet-abuse shows reports of dogfighting cases increased from 16 in 2000 to 127 in 2006. This year 74 cases have been reported.

The gritty details of a dogfight:

In all cases the dogs are kept separated from other dogs. They are chained to a post or doghouse away from others. Dogs are trained for a “keep” period, using treadmills with suspended bait like cats or other small animals to condition them to being on the “attack.” The dogs are abused by being deliberately overconditioned and dehydrated before a fight to reduce blood loss. The animals are killed if deemed unfit to continue in future fights.

“Pit Bull Men” are handlers at dogfights that wash the canines before fighting to ensure no lethal chemicals are used on the animal. The combatant dogs have a pre-fight weight agreement.

Inner city matches may occur in an alley or behind a dwelling at a predetermined location in “street-level dogfighting.” Dogfight “lookouts” attempt to deter discovery by police. The location chosen by fight promoters is secret and changed continuously to deter authorities.

(...continued, see DOGFIGHTING, p. 10)
They have written three books on animal testing (all of which are available for sale on the internet and at several bookstores in Madison):

* Sacred Cows and Golden Geese: The Human Cost of Experimenting on Animals, with a forward by Dr. Jane Goodall
* Specious Science: How Genetics and Evolution Reveal Why Medical Research on Animals Harms Humans
* What Will We Do If We Don’t Experiment On Animals? Medical Research for the Twenty-first Century

During his Madison visit, Dr. Greek also gave a lecture and book signing at Barnes and Noble West, did radio interviews, and engaged in a debate with UW-Madison vivisectionist Eric Sandgren. In this debate, he showed that animals are not at all predictive for studying human medical issues. Dr. Greek presented medical and scientific data as to why it doesn’t work to use animals for the purpose of finding cures for human diseases, while Sandgren just presented opinions and didn’t really address the issue at hand.

Dr. Greek gives three reasons underlying his motivation to speak out against testing on animals. They are as follows:

1) Because he “doesn’t like the psychological, intellectual, well-financed bullies” associated with animal vivisection. Dr. Greek went on to point out that, “the animal research industry has lobbyists on Capitol Hill.”

2) Animals and humans are harmed by the experiments.

3) Animal testing is a huge waste of money.

Dr. Greek goes on to say that, “The animal experiment process is an anathema to critical thought.”

I asked Dr. Greek for his viewpoint on non-medical product testing on animals for things such as household cleaners, cosmetics, etc. “Product testing is a sub-category of drug testing,” he stated. “All drugs, cleaning products, and cosmetics are chemicals. Can we test any chemical on animals to figure out what that chemical will do to humans? The answer is ‘No.’”

The Alliance for Animals and the Primate Freedom Project are working on creating an anti-vivisection exhibition (www.primateresearch.com) which will be located right between two primate-testing labs near the UW campus. The UW is trying to stop it by making their own attempts to purchase the property from Roger Charly, owner of Budget Bicycles. Regarding this issue Dr. Greek says, “Anything that provides educational material is good. Anyone that tries to inhibit educational material is bad.”

Instead of the word “alternatives,” Dr. Geek prefers the phrase “proven methods” when it comes to describing options available that do not involve experimenting on animals. The list of proven methods includes: “cells taken from humans, PET scans, imaging technology of the brain, and autopsies. There is epidemiology, which is the study of human populations. That’s what linked smoking to lung cancer and heart disease.”

Another proven method is “Microdosing, which involves teeny-tiny amounts of drugs applied to a human to see what the drug does to the body. The dose is too small to do any harm. Proven methods are superior to experimenting on a totally different species.”

And then there’s nanotechnology, which is “making very tiny devices (100,000 times smaller than a human hair) which are injected into the blood stream and can eat the bad bacteria from an infection. People who want to develop nanotechnology compete for grant money with animal experimenters. There would be a lot more nanotechnology if animal studies weren’t funded.”

Dr. Greek states: “For too long, we have allowed the vital resources that support biomedical research to be squandered by the vested interest groups. People are dying everyday from cancer, AIDS, heart disease, adverse drug reactions, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, birth defects and many more. It is time we the people take control of our how our taxes are spent in the field of medical research.”

For more information on AFMA and Dr. Greek’s work, check out their website www.curedisease.com.
In Celebration of Ms. Helene Dwyer:  
The Inaugural AFA Outstanding Activist Tribute Dinner  
by Timothy Garrett

On Thursday, August 30, about eighty Alliance for Animals (AFA) supporters paid tribute to long-time AFA member and activist Ms. Helene Dwyer. Helene is a former professor of philosophy at UW-Baraboo. She retired in 2005.

Gathering at the East Side Club, attendees were treated to a delicious catered vegan dinner of pasta with vegetables and tomato sauce. Dessert included a frosted vegan banana cake.

Following dinner, AFA board president Betsy Munro started the program by announcing the names of contributors and sponsors who made the event possible. Our gratitude goes out to those generous contributors, listed below. A F A Director Lori Nitzel then asked attendees to take some easy action for the animals, saying “We’re not going to let you leave without doing something for the animals.” At each table were pre-printed postcards to sign and mail, advocating for legislation against puppy mills and inviting several UW officials to the recent debate about vivisection.

Recognition of the activist in all of us was followed by an entertaining and emotional show of appreciation for Helene by fellow activists and friends. Many words of acknowledgement and expressions of love were made for Helene, and for her kindness and compassion towards non-human animals, her friends and family, and her students. It was evident that throughout the years Helene has touched many lives, both two- and four-legged! A sampling of comments follows:

- Betsy Munro talked about Helene’s contributions to companion animals, especially cats with special needs such as those with FIV and Feline Leukemia.
- Lu Kummerow remarked on some of Helene’s activism over the years such as handing out fliers, lobbying legislators, running fundraisers, writing letters to editors, harassing hunters and picketing furriers. She stated, “I’ve never met anyone who cared lovingly for as many animals as Helene has. Helene does not judge or evaluate. She’s just your friend. Helene is compassionate about animals and people, too.”
- Bethany Darling first met Helene as student in Helene’s class. “Before Helene I didn’t know about veganism. I didn’t know it might be wrong to eat animals and I didn’t know about animal rescue. Because of Helene I’m now in school to become a vet technician and because of Helene I don’t eat meat …”

A very beautiful and moving tribute with pictures and video of Helene was shown, accompanied by the sweet, mellow song “Sunrise” by Norah Jones. Among the images were video clips showing Ms. Dwyer speaking up for animals, particularly monkeys used in vivisection, at public hearings. Also included was an interview of Helene, with AFA board member and Primate Freedom Project co-founder Rick Bogle asking frank questions about Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), aka Lou Gehrig’s disease, which Helene has. Taking a stand, Helene expressed that she is against any type of animal testing to find a cure or treatment for ALS.

After the video tribute, those in attendance were asked to donate to the Helene Dwyer Greatest Need Fund. This is a pool of money to be on hand to help with an AFA-related need of the moment. According to Helene, it will, “be there when something big or small comes up and it is up to the board what that need could be.”

It was then time for the guest of honor to share her thoughts. Helene stated, “I’m so glad the Alliance is doing this type of thing. You’d better keep it up or I’ll come back to make sure. There’s no way I deserve to be the first but I understand the motivation and I accept it out of the love that I know you have and I have it for you, too. We need to do this kind of thing because we need to encourage each other because there’s so much oppression of what we value. So let’s keep on patting each other on the back and showing how much we appreciate each other and ignoring the things that irritate us about each other. Some of you are very irritating. (Much laughter followed.) It’s been a wonderful, wonderful evening and thank you so much.”
A short interview with Helene:

A few days after the tribute dinner I had the opportunity to sit with Helene in her home to find out more about her involvement with animal rights and her years with AFA.

When asked how she began her activism, Helene stated that she has “always had a good relationship with companion animals.” She states that she “naively ignored farm animals and thought they didn’t suffer.” However, in the mid 1980’s while teaching, Helene was preparing for an ethics class and read an essay by James Rachels titled “Vegetarianism and the Other Weight Problem.”

This essay helped Helene realize how food choices are critically important in animal advocacy and how wasteful a non-vegetarian diet is. Helene commented, “It is cruel to eat meat. One way to feed humans would be for more of us to become vegetarians, which would free up food now being used to feed animals to turn them into ‘meat.’”

Helene then read Animal Liberation by Peter Singer, which convinced her to become vegetarian. Since then Helene has taken the cruelty-free step even further by switching to a vegan (no animal products whatsoever) diet.

Helene has participated in hunter interventions and has attended many a protest. She tries to be involved in all AFA-related activities, and has been on the AFA board on and off throughout the years, and is currently running for re-election. She attends meetings of the Primate Freedom Project, and was recently at the AFA Vegan Chili Cook-off (she talked me into participating!) and the October AFA Veggie Dinner.

Helene loves and cares for her current companion animals - two dogs and six cats. Helene is known for cat rescue, foster, and adoption. She got started in the early 1990’s because her old house backed up to undeveloped land where feral cats lived. “A neighbor and I would catch them in live traps,” explained Helene. “We would get them spayed and neutered and put back the non-domesticated ones. I kept a few and found homes for the tame cats.” Helene spread the word with flyers and ads in the student newspapers to foster and/or adopt the animals. Helene is no longer able to do any more cat rescues but she has materials to help anyone who wants to do so.

While teaching UW classes, Helene was able to bring up the topic of animal rights. She taught a unit on human and animal relations in an ethics class. Helene wanted the students to understand what the world may look like from the perspectives of different animals. She wanted the students to “realize that there are different ways of grasping the world and we have only one of them.” From teaching this unit on human animal relations, through the years Helene has had students tell her that they would not eat meat anymore.

I asked Helene what she recommends for one simple act anyone could do to help the animals. “Become a vegan!” was her response. “If they can’t do it then try [being vegan for] one meal or one day each week. Then they’ll find out it’s not a big sacrifice to eat vegan.” If you’re not already vegan, please consider honoring Helene Dwyer by following her compassionate example and switch to a diet that is free of all animal products. ✴
I met a monkey in Cameroon. He was a young putty-nose guenon (*Cercopithecus nictitans*) whose mother had been eaten by villagers living near the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center. I was there helping with a few small construction projects.

I had watched wild monkeys in Cameroon and The Gambia. I had watched monkeys in zoos, on videos, and had been reading extensively about their intelligence, social behavior, and the many ways we harm them. But I had never gotten to know an individual monkey.

In the mornings, after I fed and played with six young orphan chimpanzees the monkey and I would sit in the forest for a few hours. He would climb to the top of the canopy and eat young leaves and the few insects he could catch. I often lost sight of him and would read or watch the occasional loose group of hornbills who stopped to investigate us. Sometimes a group of guenons would move through the treetops nearby. I always hoped that he and they would connect and he would go off to live a normal monkey life. It never happened.

He would leap down on me every ten or fifteen minutes and then charge back into the trees. Sometimes we would share a little banana. When I groomed him he would go completely limp with unquestioning trust. I could look in his mouth, his ears, lift his eyelids, clean the nails of his hands and feet. If he was up in the trees when I wanted to go back and start working, I would call to him, and he would come scrambling down and leap onto me from many feet above.

During the day, he was in a cage whenever I could not be with him. He hated being locked up and called imploringly to be released. His obvious distress at being locked up led me to let him sleep in my bed with me at night. At first I was worried that he would soil the bed and tried to keep him on a towel. But he seemed to get the idea that the bed was our nest, and there was never a problem.

Today, he is living at the Limbe Wildlife Center with other orphaned monkeys. His sad and unfortunate fate was sealed the day his mother was killed. Limbe is a an enlightened zoo run by a caring staff struggling to provide some semblance of normalcy and safety to the deluge of animals who show up at their door. But no matter how much they care, captivity cannot duplicate freedom. I have watched monkeys leap from treetops with seeming abandon and fall forty or fifty feet through the air into the tops of lower trees. Troops of monkeys live in complex social groups with generations of familial continuity and rich interpersonal relationships. Foraging in the forest presents continual challenges that stimulate their curiosity, problem solving, and social cohesiveness. Such rich environmental diversity cannot be duplicated in captive settings.

**American Realities**

As unfortunate as my friend was, his fate has been far luckier than that of the monkeys who find themselves in biomedical laboratories. American labs, like labs around the rest of the world, are unavoidably and inherently evil. This evil is widespread, institutionalized, and routine. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, nearly 60,000 nonhuman primates are used in American laboratories each year. The U.S. is overwhelmingly the world’s largest consumer of primates. The biomedical industry apologists claim that medical advancement is dependent on the use of these animals. They claim that the animals are humanely cared for and that all experiments are screened carefully to assure that only the most important ones are conducted. These self-interested lies must be motivated by an understanding that the truth would lead to severe censure and societal condemnation of those responsible and a loss of significant income.

(....continued, see PRIMATE, p. 12)
Gloria Steinem says “NO” to Covance Cruelty

NOTE: In October, Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist and journalist, visited Madison as part of a fundraiser for the Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS). Steinem is also an animal activist. When she learned that Covance, a private animal testing facility, was a sponsor of the event, Steinem was uncomfortable. Steinem proceeded to ask that DAIS drop Covance as a sponsor of the event. The following is part of a press release issued by the Alliance for Animals about Steinem’s animal-friendly actions.

Several letters from DAIS supporters objecting to the Alliance for Animals’ publicizing of Steinem’s actions appeared in the newspaper after the event. Several letters from Alliance for Animals members were subsequently printed. The letter after the press release is an unpublished letter to the editor written by Alliance for Animals member and supporter Leslie Hamilton in response to the letters from DAIS supporters. Links to all the local media coverage can be found at http://www.madisonmonkeys.com/news.htm.

Ask Betsy

Litter Box Woes Can Be Solved!

Dear Betsy:

I have a beautiful, loving cat named Charlotte who is 6 years old. She was always good about using her litter box when my wife and I got her about 4 years ago, but now she is refusing to use it a lot of the time. She even goes on the bed…and I don’t just mean “Number One”! I’ve tried different kinds of litter but it doesn’t help. The kids love her and so do I, but my wife says either the cat goes or she does. Please help! —Stuck in Charlotte’s Messy Web

Dear Stuck in Web:

Thanks for your question! Inappropriate elimination is the most common behavioral problem seen in cats and the number one reason cats are relinquished to an animal shelter. It’s not hopeless. With some perseverance, almost all cases of inappropriate elimination can be resolved.

The first thing you need to do is rule out medical causes of inappropriate urination/defecation. I suggest having a follow-up visit with your veterinarian, as it sounds like it has been awhile. Inappropriate urination can be related to kidney disease, bladder stones, or lower urinary tract disease. Inappropriate defecation can be associated with colitis, parasites, and intestinal disease. If your cat has not been spayed, this can also be a contributing factor, as urination can be used as a marking factor in both males and females. It is necessary that medical causes be ruled out prior to implementing behavioral therapy.

Here are some basic techniques you can try to hopefully correct your situation:

- Scoop out litter boxes daily and clean them on a regular basis. Provide one more litter box than the number of cats in the household (so you should have two). Have at least one litter box on each level of the house. Make sure to locate the litter box in low traffic/noise areas. Do not use covered litter boxes or liners. Covers may be too confining and don’t allow for adequate or easy escape, all necessary to the cat’s comfort level when eliminating. Liners may snag on nails, and your cat may not like or avoid the smell of plastic.

- Use unscented litter and vary the depth of the litter (from 1” to 4”) in the different boxes to see what depth your cat prefers. Make sure food and water dishes are away from the litter boxes. You can also use Feliway® Pheromone Spray. This spray creates a calming effect on cats, which may help with anxiety-related activities.

- Shaping your cat’s behavior about proper use of the litter box is critical to effectively deal with inappropriate elimination. Take your cat to the litter box and place her in it. You may need to encourage the cat by stirring the litter as a demonstration of scratching techniques. Praise your cat for using the box. In addition to praise, a favorite treat or playtime can be used to encourage appropriate use of the litter box. Never use physical punishment to correct a cat’s behavior, such as rubbing a cat’s nose in a soiled area. Punishment like this is useless and potentially dangerous to the person and injurious to the cat. I hope I have answered your question. Good luck! (Special thanks to Dr. Susan J. Krebsbach, Creature Counseling, Oregon, WI, for her assistance).

Betsy Munro is the president of the board of directors of the Alliance for Animals, and is also a board member of Dane County Friend of Ferals. E-mail her at bmunro4animals@yahoo.com if you have an animal-related question and she may give you your answer in the next newsletter!
A “pit” is where the dogs fight in a designated building or enclosure. The pit is an area 16 X 20 feet with plywood walls 24-30” high. The floor is usually carpeted to absorb blood loss and other liquids from the dogs. Handlers have a breaking stick (called a “pry bar”) in their pocket, 9-15” long with a flat point, to disengage the entangled dog’s mouth.

Fights last usually 45 minutes but often run an hour or more. Handlers do not control or restrain their dog in the fight. They can, however, sit in the pit area. Only the dogs, two handlers and a referee are allowed in the pit. Onlookers stand behind the walls.

The grueling contest is started by a referee yelling, “Face your dogs!” On the “scratch line” - a marked line in the pit opposite from the dogs - the victims are placed facing each other. The referee then calls “go!” and the fight ensues, eventually smearing the walls with blood from the tussle. The dogs try to disable each other by getting a gripping bite on the neck or jaw of the other and holding out until one dog gives way.

A “turn” occurs when a dog turns head and shoulders away from the other dog without attempting to bite or hold on. Time is then called and the dogs are separated. The dog that turned must get a hold on the other dog when the fight restarts.

The dogs continue to fight, often being stopped just short of death. The combatants are trained to desensitize their pain and continue to fight even until exhausted or too injured to move. They are trained to kill each other. When one dog is unable to show aggression or strays from the pit, the other dog wins the match.

A fight leaves the dogs very bloody and bruised, sometimes in shock and with possible infections that can cause death later on. Dogs are destroyed by owners if they are losers. The dogs are executed by electrocution, beaten to death, strangled, slammed to the pavement, shot or set on fire.

Endorsement by pop culture?

Our culture seems to support dogfighting based on Madison Avenue ads. When Nike was criticized for showing a growling pit bull and Rottweiler facing off in an advertisement, they denied dogfighting encouragement. “People have to understand the youth culture we cater to,” a representative said. “Our market is the urban, edgy, hip-hop culture.”

Rap star Jay-Z shows dogs being prepared to fight in an uncensored version of his music video, “99 Problems.” And rapper DMX has a CD with a powerful-looking pit bull that is titled “Grand Champ.” (Winning five fights qualifies a canine to be “Grand Champ.”)

How can we stop it?

Increased enforcement of the laws must occur to prevent dogfighting. But law officers are often frustrated by such issues as small rings that draw around 30 people, and by continued illegal activity amongst peers. “Someone keeps the fights going,” Buffalo Animal Control Officer Andrew Kleinfelder said. “We might have to go back to the same house three different times. Even after someone is arrested there often will be dogfighting training manuals, equipment like treadmills, harnesses and muzzles in the home.”

Many communities in America are targeting dogfighting through local and regional task forces. “It’s clear when you have dogfighting, drugs and gambling and other criminal subcultures will follow,” stated Mark Plowden, a spokesperson for the South Carolina Attorney General’s office. One South Carolina breeder of fighting dogs is currently serving a stiff 30-year sentence. A Henry County, Virginia publisher was convicted of transmitting fighting dog images across state lines and given a 30-month sentence.

Chicago has a serious dogfighting problem in its inner city. A special police unit in the city is devoted to investigating cases of abuse between gangs and dogfighting.

Unfortunately, as part of a tough inner city value system, cruelty is sometimes ignored as fighting can be a “status symbol.” A dog walking down the street with heavy chains around his or her neck can be a tough symbol of street life. Dogfighting is for entertainment and profit, and does great harm to the animals. We must work together to educate people about the terrible cruelty involved in this disgusting blood sport and ask our law enforcement officials to be more proactive. ☭
suffer in the Covance laboratories. She stated, 'Animal abuse is so connected to domestic abuse -- literally in a household, but societally in a more general way, too.' Using one's power to harm others is contrary to Ms. Steinem's life's work and Covance was dropped as a sponsor for the event."

“We are grateful to Ms. Steinem for standing against violence in all of its forms,” states Lori Nitzel, Executive Director of the Alliance for Animals. “If the public could see what goes on in the animal research labs they would demand an immediate end to this horrible abuse.”

Covance’s Madison, Wisconsin location consumes thousands of both dogs and monkeys annually in product tests of dubious value. Surreptitiously-made video recordings from within Covance primate labs in Germany and in Virginia have led to widespread condemnation of the company’s practices.

In 2003, upon viewing video from the Covance lab in Germany, Jane Goodall said, “To use monkeys in experiments like this is absolutely not acceptable … The video that I saw showing how these helpless animals were treated, the brutality, the callousness, the joking and laughing, the total lack of dignity; they were being treated like inanimate things, and it deeply shocked me.” [Animal News. 2003. http://www.buzzle.com/editorials/12-16-2003-48684.asp]

In 2007, Covance was ordered to pay PETA Europe $290,000 when a British court dismissed a lawsuit Covance brought to stop the group from publicizing video footage taken from inside a Covance monkey lab in Vienna, Virginia, during an 11-month undercover investigation in 2005. The video documents workers striking, choking, and taunting monkeys. The cages are small and barren. Monkeys were documented “circling frantically…, pulling out their hair, and chewing their own flesh.” [http://www.peta.org/Automation/NewsItem.asp?id=9763]


The following is an unpublished letter to the editor written by Alliance for Animals member and supporter Leslie Hamilton in response to the letters from DAIS supporters.

Shame on you, DAIS. You, more than most, should be aware of how difficult it is for marginalized groups – feminists, battered women, gays, and yes, even animals – to get their voices heard. As women, you are all too familiar with what it is like to have your opinions trivialized. The Alliance for Animals and Gloria Steinem did not force you to shift the focus of your celebration; it asked you to broaden that focus. We asked you to recognize that the same power differentials that fuel domestic violence also feed the profit-driven corporations and collaborating universities that treat animals like commodities or living test tubes.

Proponents of feminist animal care theory incorporate the voices of animals into public policy and ethical discourse. The DAIS leadership should explore this branch of feminist philosophy and, in particular, its application to the question of animal research. Eminent feminist philosopher Deborah Slicer, in her article, “Your Daughter or Your Dog? A Feminist Assessment of the Animal Research Issue” (1991) points out, lifeboat hypotheticals aside, that “much of animal research is worthless, redundant and trivial because animals do not serve as reliable models for human beings”. In the meantime, truly beneficial human health measures, such as cleaning the air, water and soil from the poisons injected into them by agribusiness, factory farms and chemical corporations struggle while animal experiments of dubious value are pursued.

Over 30 years ago, when a handful of women and I founded the Dane County Advocates for Battered Women (now DAIS), I did not know any women who were the victims of abuse, a crime well hidden behind closed doors. This violence was perpetrated against others and had no apparent effect on my daily life. Yet the revulsion I felt compelled me to do what I could to end this abuse. When I learned about the horrendous conditions in our slaughterhouses and animal laboratories, my reaction was the same. The violence perpetrated against animals happens behind closed doors, it represents the careless or deliberate abuse of power and the arrogant objectification of its victims.

Animals are, and women have been, considered property. Both women and animals have been status objects to be acquired and shown off to raise a man’s perceived value among his peers (consider the trophy wife wearing a mink coat). If an animal is damaged, the injury is to its owner. In many cultures, if a woman is raped, the injury is to her father or the other male members of her family. Compare the beauty pageant and a dog or cat show.

From the bedroom to the boardroom, whether a deliberate act or the result of inertia, the arrogant abuse of power permeates our culture and blinds us to the consequences of our everyday choices. Compassion is not a finite resource and, as feminist animal care theorist Carol J. Adams points out in “Caring about Suffering” (1996), we must acknowledge the “sex-species system” in which animal (and human) suffering is embedded. ✤
Our Moral Responsibility

I was a middle school teacher for eight years prior to learning what is known about monkeys’ and apes’ minds and emotions and what is being done to them in the labs. My students used to ask me why people allowed situations like slavery and the Holocaust to continue. I never had an answer for them, but we all agreed that if we had been alive during those horrible episodes that we would have tried to help in some way. Maybe we would have hidden a Jew in our attic, or have helped a slave escape along the underground railway. We recognized that doing nothing would have amounted to supporting a nightmare. I hope that I would have been one of the people who had the courage and moral resolve to resist and fight against the evil that was thriving then. But, once I learned what was happening in the labs and who these animals are, I knew that if I did nothing now, that it is unlikely that I would have done anything then.

Speak Out

The Primate Freedom Project was founded in 1999 to call attention to the plight of the animals being held in the primate labs in the United States. Every day people visit www.primate-freedom.com and read the life stories of monkeys trapped in taxpayer-funded labs. Everyday people write to their Congressional representatives about the problems we are exposing. People are coming together to stop this abomination. More voices are needed; more ideas need to be tried. Your silence signals acceptance to those in the labs; I urge you to speak out in a loud and uncompromising voice.

In June, the Alliance for Animals participated in "Chain Off 2007," a nationwide event illustrating the suffering of chained and penned dogs. More than ten brave souls chained themselves to dog houses for over eight hours near a very busy street in Madison. The event was covered by radio and television news stations.

Wisconsin’s Animals Need YOU!

The Alliance for Animals has ongoing volunteer opportunities that you can help out with, and you don’t even have to live in Madison! We currently are looking for the following:

- Volunteer Coordinator (must have a computer and like to receive and respond to email!)
- Campaign Coordinators
- Graphic Designers (brochure design and web design)

If you would like more information about any of the above opportunities, please contact us! We’d love to hear from you. Either call the office at 608-257-6333 or email us at alliance@allanimals.org.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR, THE CAPITAL TIMES  
November 20, 2007  

The Animal on My Plate: Reflections on Thanksgiving  

For as long as I can remember, our family’s Thanksgiving dinner has begun with a prayer of gratitude: thank you for our good health and happiness, for this time that we spend together. And then a familiar coda: “we thank the turkey, for giving its life so we might enjoy this delicious meal.”  

The turkey. This delicious meal.  

For me, these words always seemed to confirm my family’s special status, a more enlightened perspective that we collectively possessed. We didn’t just consume our bird; we thanked it! In the spirit of some Native Americans traditions, we recognized the animal as a being with a life of its own, the sacrifice of which made possible the central ritual of our holiday meal.  

But then, for me, something changed. It happened gradually, as more of the world became exposed to me; as I learned about Butterball and Con-Agra, factory farming and global hunger; as I met people who actually “farmed” those white frozen orbs my father brought home to thaw, then roast, then serve all gold and glistening on a tray. With all that, over time . . . I became a vegetarian.  

I harbor no illusions that the great majority of Americans will give up their Thanksgiving turkey any time soon; my family certainly won’t. And yet, I can’t help but wonder how many would relish their meals quite as much if they came in closer contact with—heck, came in any contact with—the creature on their plate. I wonder how many, if forced to kill and scrape and clean their own turkey, or watch others do so in some contemporary factory, would make the same choices each fourth Thursday of November.  

What I hope is that, with each passing year, more and more of us care to see not just what, but who we are eating on Thanksgiving, and the full and honest scope of how that meal came to be.  

Melissa Tedrowe  
Madison, Wisconsin  

EDITOR’S NOTE: Melissa is a member of the Board of Directors of Alliance for Animals.

Join us for a holiday party!  

Celebrate a year of animal advocacy with friends, food, drink, and good cheer! The Alliance for Animals will hold its holiday party for supporters and volunteers on Tuesday, December 11. The party will be in downtown Madison at the Cardinal Bar, 418 E. Wilson St. and will run from 6:00 – 9:00. If you are able, please bring a snack or finger food to share. A cash bar will be available, and there is no cost to attend. We hope to see you there, and have a joyous holiday season!  

Happy Holidays!  

New winner at Chili Cook-off  

Alliance for Animals member Lynn Pauly took home two prizes at the 2007 Chili Cook-off for her original “Cha Cha Chili.” Winning both the “People’s Choice” award and the first place prize given by the judges, Lynn went home with gift certificates from several local businesses for her vegan creation.  

This year’s Vegan Chili Cook-off was another successful affair, with nine chili entries and a euphonium band providing musical entertainment. Huge thanks to Justin Richardson for bringing his band and their music to our event! The music was enjoyed by all.  

Be sure to watch for our next Cook-off, held during the latter part of September each year. We are always looking for more volunteers and chili chefs!  

*
Once again, the generosity of many wonderful businesses and individuals contributed to another successful silent auction at our October Veggie Dinner. Businesses: Donating to our popular silent auction is a great way to get your name out to the public. Customers: Be sure to patronize these generous establishments and let them know you appreciate their donation to the Alliance for Animals!

* denotes first-time donor

Art Gecko, artgeckoshop@yahoo.com
Avol’s Bookstore, www.avolsbookstore.com
B-Side CDs & DVDs, www.b-sidemadison.com
Bad Dog Frida, www.baddogfrida.com
Bandung Restaurant, www.bandungrestaurant.com
*Blossom Massage, www.blossommassagemadison.com
Bongo Video, www.bongovideo.com
Burnie’s Rock Shop, www.burniesrockshop.com
*Burrito Drive, www.burritodrive.com
Cafe Zoma
Capitol City Tattoo, www.capitolcitytattoo.net
Cargo Coffee
Chautara Restaurant
Cleven, Dennis Lee, www.MySpace.com/DennisLee1
College Barber-Styling Shop
Community Pharmacy, www.communitypharmacy.coop
Cosmic Object, www.myspace.com/cosmicobject
Crave Restaurant & Lounge, www.cravemadison.com
Creature Counseling, www.CreatureCounseling.com
Crocker, Lesley
DeSerio DeSigns, www.deseriodesigns.com
Ear Wax Punk & Metal, www.earwaxwisconsin.com
EVP Coffee, www.evpcoffee.com
Fair Trade Coffeehouse, www.fairtradecoffeehouse.com
Fine Posters & Prints, www.finepostersmadison.com
Four Star Video Heaven www.fourstarvideoheaven.com
Frugal Muse, The, www.frugalmuse.com
Glass Nickel Pizza, www.glassnickelpizza.com
Greater Gift, A (fair trade shop), www.agreatergift.org
Higher Fire Clay Studio
Himal Chuli Restaurant
Husnus Mediterranean Restaurant
Ian’s Pizza By the Slice, www.ianspizza.com
Jamerica Restaurant, www.jamericarestaurant.com
Java Cat, www.javacatcoffee.com
Just Coffee, www.justcoffee.coop
Kabul Afghanistan Restaurant
La Roca’s Restaurant & Pizzeria, www.laroccaspizzeria.com
Little Luxuries
MadCat Pet Supplies, www.felineunderground.com
Maza Afghan Restaurant, mazarest@yahoo.com
Mediterranean Cafe
Mekong Vietnamese & Thai Restaurant
Michelangelo’s Coffeehouse
Mimosa Books & Gifts, www.mimosaspirit.com
Mother Fool’s Coffeehouse, www.motherfools.com
Munro, Betsy, http://www.tahitiannoni.com/bmunro
Nutzy Mutz & Crazy Catz, www.nutzmutz.com
Panera Bread, www.panerabread.com
Paul’s Book Store
Pavlov’s Pizza, http://webpages.charter.net/pavlovpizza
Peacock, The
Pipefitter, The
Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, www.rainbowbookstore.org
Rick’s Olde Gold
Roman Candle Pizzeria, The, www.theromanfood.com
Shangri-La Collections, www.shangrilacollection.com
Soap Opera, The, www.soapopera.com
Sunroom Cafe & Gallery, www.sunroomcafe.com
Supreme Pizza
Tropic Jewel
Vintage Spirits and Grill, www.vintagemadison.com
Weary Traveler Bar & Restaurant, The
Volunteers, We Thank You!

A huge thank you to the following wonderful volunteers! They work hard to keep the Alliance for Animals running smoothly. We appreciate your unwavering support!

- Amy Burns - database manager
- Lesley Crocker and Marian Bean - veggie dinner coordinator and veggie dinner chef
- Dennis Lee Cleven - silent auction coordinator and animal advocacy film coordinator
- Betsy Munro - silent auction coordinator
- All the AFAPFP volunteers who worked so hard to bring Dr. Ray Greek in for the debate - too many of you to name, but you know who you are!
- Justin Richardson and his euphonium band - for great music at the chili cook-off
- Andy Larson - Madison musician (German Art Students) and benefit concert coordinator
- Peter Keuler - Thanksgiving dinner coordinator
- Lynn Pauly - graphic design
- Ken Crocker - graphic design
- Daniel Birk - for his service on the Alliance for Animals Board of Directors

If we have forgotten you, please don’t hold it against us! Feel free to email alliance@allanimals.org to let us know and we’ll get you in the next issue. You deserve to be recognized for your hard work! ✪

Use this handy form to make a donation to Alliance for Animals!

NOTE: If your mailing label appears on the back of this form (and is correct as printed), there is no need to fill out the name & address spaces below. Simply fill out the donation you’d like to make and mail to:

Alliance for Animals, P.O. Box 1632, Madison, WI 53701.

☐ YES! I would like to help the Alliance for Animals continue its work for the animals.

Enclosed is my donation of:

- $25*  - $30  - $50  - $100  - $_________(other amount)

*annual membership amount

☐ I’d like to make monthly contributions of $_________ on my credit card:

- VISA  - MasterCard  Expiration Date:

Card Account Number:

Cardholder Signature (required):

Name:

Address:

City:  State:  Zip:

E-mail Address:  Phone:

If we have forgotten you, please don’t hold it against us! Feel free to email alliance@allanimals.org to let us know and we’ll get you in the next issue. You deserve to be recognized for your hard work! ✪
Wish List:
- Stamps
- Digital Video Camera/Camera
- Laser printer/copier
- Heavy-duty stapler
- Portable DVD player for tabling (7-9 inch)
- Heavy-duty paper shredder
- Professional printing services for educational literature

Visit us on the Web:
- allanimals.org
- veggiebratfest.com
- savewisconsinwildlife.com
- madisonmonkeys.com

Upcoming Events:
Please see our website, www.allanimals.org or call 608-257-6333 for more information about the events listed below.
Additionally, our active committees on farm animal cruelty, animal research, and other animal issues meet frequently.
Updated information on committee meetings can be obtained at www.allanimals.org.

Every Wednesday  AFA Primate Freedom Project Meetings
of each month: 6:30-8:00 p.m., contact the Alliance for location.

2nd Monday  AFA Monthly Membership Meetings
of each month: 7:00-8:00 p.m., 122 State St., 4th floor, Madison
NOTE: NO DECEMBER MEETING!

December 1  AFA Holiday Party
6-9 p.m., Cardinal Bar, 418 E. Wilson St., Madison
Free! If you are able, please bring a vegan snack/fingerfood to share. Cash bar.

February 16  Vegetarian Soup for the Soul Dinner
5:00-8:00 p.m., Wil-Mar Center, 920 Jenifer St., Madison

April 19    Spring Vegetarian Dinner & Silent Auction
5:00-8:00 p.m., Wil-Mar Center, 920 Jenifer St., Madison

Alliance for Animals
P.O. Box 1632
Madison, WI 53701

Phone: 608-257-6333
E-mail: Alliance@AllAnimals.org

Please check your membership expiration date!
See donation/membership form on preceding page.