When you ask animal rights activists why they protest outside KFC, handing out leaflets at the entrance to a rodeo or staffing a table at the local farmers’ market, the response will frequently be that they are “giving a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves.”

Increasingly, these same “voices” can be heard in the courtroom where attorneys, introduced to the new field of animal law taught now at many U.S. law schools, are using the same skills that served the civil rights movement over a half-century ago. It was one such young attorney, Andrea Farrell, a U.W. law school graduate and former president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, who represented the Alliance for Animals (in partnership with PETA) in obtaining an unprecedented ruling from Dane County Circuit Judge Amy Smith.

As we have reported to you previously, Judge Smith found, after considering the evidence uncovered by the Alliance, that there was probable cause to believe that several named faculty at the UW-Madison violated Wisconsin’s animal cruelty law when the UW killed over 26 sheep by means of decompression. These excruciatingly painful experiments, funded by the U.S. Navy, had been going on at the UW for decades.

Judge Smith’s ruling echoed the findings of Dane County District Attorney Brian Blanchard who also determined that the UW-Madison violated the state statute that forbids “killing an animal by means of decompression” but who declined to bring charges due to a “lack (...continued, see LAMBS, p. 2)

Elephants Living Free

Alliance for Animals’ Elephants Living Free (ELF) volunteers had a busy summer. Unfortunately, summer is circus season in Wisconsin. Volunteers were busy following traveling circuses throughout Wisconsin. ELF volunteers found several violations of the Animal Welfare Act and reported these violations to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), responsible for inspecting circuses.

ELF also received notification from a concerned parent letting us know that the Madison School District participates in an end-of-the-year field trip to Circus World in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The Madison School District sees Circus World as a way to teach children about Wisconsin history. Circus World does have a collection of circus wagons and an historical museum, but the grand finale is a circus performance that features an elephant act and elephant rides. This courageous parent elected for her child to participate in an animal friendly activity in place of sending her child to gawk at unhappy and bullied animals. Most importantly, she also expressed her concern to the teachers and principal at her child’s school.

Circus World has ten daily shows during their spring and summer season. Like the Zor Shrine Circus, Circus World hires a contractor to supply the elephant act. This year, Circus World hired the Liebel Family Circus. Like many circuses, the Liebel Family Circus has a long (...continued, see ELEPHANTS, p. 3)
of the resources” necessary to pursue the case.

Because the Dane County District Attorney refused to prosecute, the judge was authorized to appoint a special prosecutor to pursue charges against the UW. The special prosecutor, attorney David Geier, investigated the case and filed his report on May 20, 2011, almost a full-year after the date of his appointment.

During his investigation, this writer met with Mr. Geier twice: accompanied by Andrea in the summer of 2010 and again in the spring of 2011 along with AFA co-executive director Rick Bogle and a representative from PETA. During both of these meetings, Geier stated that unless he could directly link one of the UW’s top administrators to the crimes, he would not prosecute the “little guys who flipped the switch.”

In his report to the court however, Geier relied on two, and in this writer’s opinion, wholly unsupportable “findings” as the basis for his decision not to pursue charges against the UW. First, Geier found the language of the statute to be ambiguous and secondly, that the UW didn’t know about the law.

Every first year law student is taught the “black letter” rules of statutory construction and the first of those rules is: *The legislature is presumed to mean what it says and say what it means.* Lawyers and courts are not permitted to read ambiguity into a statute that is clear on its face. The law at issue in this case is a mere 12 words long: “Decompression prohibited. No person may kill an animal by means of decompression.”

The second well-accepted rule of law ignored by Mr. Geier is one known to most American’s over the age of 14 years: “Ignorance of the law is no defense (excuse)!" Apparently ignoring direct evidence from a former UW-veterinarian that the UW was well aware that these experiments violated the law, Geier bought the UW’s “ignorant” defense. Although the UW sheep never had their day in court, we were informed by the UW and Mr. Geier that the UW terminated its decompression experiments on sheep and the Navy terminated its funding for these experiments.

Although he declined to pursue charges for the decompression deaths, Geier warned the UW that if any more animals were killed by means of decompression, criminal charges would result. Deciding it could take no more chances with the judicial system, the UW looked for protection from the law elsewhere.

---

**State Gives “Get Out of Jail Free” Card to UW Vivisectors**

In early June, the Alliance heard from a former UW employee that the UW was using its well-oiled backroom lobbying machine to insert a last-minute provision into the Governor’s massive budget bill, a provision that would ensure immunity from future criminal prosecution to all scientific researchers, no matter how barbaric the treatment of their laboratory animals. AFA members immediately set up meetings with state representatives to urge them to remove this provision from the budget. Several of us also met with the editorial staff of the Wisconsin State Journal and asked the paper to take a stand against the inclusion into a budget bill of such a major public policy shift where it would pass with no public hearing or debate.

Although several Wisconsin Senators and Representatives opposed the measure, it passed along party lines with the budget as a whole and, although Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) urged Gov. Walker to veto the amendment, the Governor let it stand thereby providing *carte blanche* for cruelty in Wisconsin’s laboratories or, as another wag put it, providing a “get out of jail free card” to anyone with a Ph.D.
history of animal abuse and neglect. The Liebel Family Circus has been cited multiple times for failure to provide veterinary care to an African elephant named Nosey (AKA Tiny or Peanut). According to the USDA, Nosey has suffered from a serious skin condition since 2004 that was not properly treated. ELF volunteers helped monitor Nosey and documented her skin condition at Circus World this summer.

Nosey is a 28-year-old elephant born in Zimbabwe who has endured a life of hardship and abuse. She has been forced to travel and perform with Hugo Liebel since 1988. Despite the fact that elephants are highly social and require the company of other elephants, Nosey has been alone for 22 years.

In a 2004 affidavit to the USDA, a Liebel employee who was attacked by Nosey, reported the frequent use of electric prods on her and detailed an incident in which the trainer “used the [bullhook] handle, turned off the lights in the performance ring, and beat the elephant. He directed others to take part in that by using other objects such as [a] sledge hammer and shovel handles. At that time the elephant was staked down by all four legs ....” He also states in the affidavit that Nosey’s attack “was not the first time the elephant had reached or struck out at people who worked at the circus.”

The mistreatment and manhandling of Nosey presents a constant danger to her and to the public. Trainers cannot protect themselves or the general public when an elephant rebels during an elephant ride or a performance. Forcing Nosey or any other elephant to have children on her back or to perform in public is reckless and dangerous. Sick and abused elephants are not fit to perform and are not safe to ride. Nosey and the other Circus World animals need our protection. If your child’s school plans to organize a field trip to Circus World, contact the teacher, principal, and PTA. Tell them that animal cruelty is not a valuable lesson and can be dangerous to your child.

**UW Again Violating Open Records Law**

After three years of effort and the killing of over two dozen sheep by means of decompression, the Alliance for Animals was eventually able to get the UW to release documents regarding its decompression experiments, documents that eventually led the Dane County Circuit Court to find probable cause to believe the UW violated the “Crimes Against Animals” law that strictly prohibits “killing an animal by means of decompression.” (See “Silencing of the Lambs.”) It is not unusual for the UW to take months to respond to records requests from AFA for documents that the UW will often provide to a local newspaper in just a couple of weeks, or even a few days. In addition to its foot-dragging and the charges for copying, the UW often charges a “search” fee of $40 or $50 dollars per hour. As a result, it is often cost prohibitive for grassroots organizations like AFA to obtain the public records necessary for us to hold the government accountable to the people whose government it (allegedly) is. Recently, the UW has decided to charge yet another fee before it will allow access to “the peoples’ documents.”

Contrary to its long established practice and in violation of two opinions issued by the Wisconsin Attorney General (AG), the UW is now charging an hourly fee for the time it takes to “redact” or “white-out” information from an open records response that it believes is confidential. The AG, who is statutorily empowered to interpret, enforce, and issue written guidance regarding Wisconsin’s open records law, has, since 1983, consistently taken the position that the costs of separating confidential parts of records from those parts that can be released must be borne by the government agency. Until last June, the UW followed the rule established by the Wisconsin Attorney General. The UW’s decision to begin charging for the time it takes to do this “redacting,” at times at a cost of over $50.00 per hour, will effectively block all of our access to the UW’s animal lab records. We are certain this was the motivation behind the UW’s change in policy and we have filed a complaint with the Dane County District Attorney asking for an immediate investigation.

**Madison’s Monkeys Remain Hidden**

Last year, in exchange for allowing a County Resolution to die – a resolution that would have established a citizen’s panel to examine the ethics of experiments on monkeys – the UW-Madison promised the Dane County Board of Supervisors that the university would hold a series of “public forums” that would answer the public’s questions.

In the fourth and latest presentation, held on October 11, 2011, primate vivisector Paul Kaufman argued that his and similar experiments on monkeys were responsible for the main drug used to treat glaucoma. He presented many slides showing tissue from monkeys’ eyes, but not a single one showing the audience what he does to them.

The details of what is done to the monkeys, what their lives are like, remain hidden. The public remains in the dark. You can watch the presentation on line by visiting the AFA website.

In documents AFA recently received from the National Institutes of Health in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, we learned that the university may have been, and could still be, repeatedly violating regulations of the Animal Welfare Act by keeping approximately 200 monkeys caged individually rather than in social housing – without written approval for this solitary confinement from the in-house oversight committee as legally required. Solitary confinement is a recognized cause of severe emotional distress in monkeys, often leading to bizarre repetitive behaviors and even self-mutilation. AFA has filed a complaint with the USDA.
Last summer, Dane County Humane Officers found a three year old baboon living in a Madison man’s basement laundry room. While investigating a sexual assault last year, Milwaukee police found crocodiles living in the bedroom and den of a reptile collector’s home. These days, anyone with access to the internet and more cash than brains can buy himself a “pet” lion, tiger, python or, yes, a baboon, and according to Wisconsin state Veterinarian Yvonne Bellay, the amount of money and violence involved in the international trade of these so called “exotics” is outranked only by that associated with drug running and arms dealing. So, it may surprise you to learn that there are no Wisconsin laws that prohibit the private ownership of a lion, tiger, python or baboon or any one of thousands of other species of non-native wild animals that may end up living in your neighbor’s basement or backyard. Although the DNR or police may confiscate a family’s beloved “pet” raccoon and local law enforcement may take your pit bull, the state has no authority to confiscate a “pet” tiger unless the animal is being cruelly treated under Wisconsin’s “Crimes Against Animals” law. Dr. Bellay, who works for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection, relates that she cannot count the number of telephone calls she receives every year from people who follow the sound of a roar to a lion living in a pen just feet from their yard and who are then shocked to find out there is nothing they can do but hope a chain-link fence keeps the predator at bay. Cities and villages have the authority in Wisconsin to enact local ordinances to prohibit “inherently dangerous” animals from living within their boundaries, but if you live in many of the “unincorporated” areas of the State, watch out because it may be a jungle out there.

The United States Department of Agriculture’s Role. The USDA plays a limited role in regulating the private ownership of some exotic animals but only if the owner plans to exhibit or in some other manner commercially exploit the animal. If that is the case, there are a few minimal housing and other animal care regulations that are on the books but even these laws are barely enforced.

It should come as no surprise that the cute little tiger cub that could be kept in a play pen in the living room will quickly grow into a 300 pound predator with an appetite that would strain the food budget of most families. Once these animals reach a few months of age, the “owner” will realize they are incompetent to care for the animal and soon also find that the local zoo, animal shelter or “sanctuary” has no room for the castoff either. Many of these poor beings end up shut into dark airless garages or filthy basement rooms and in pens that are so small the animals cannot stand-up or turn around. These wild animals, who are meant to run, climb or roam for miles, will have no enrichment or even the companionship of others of their species. They will display the self-harming and repetitive pacing and other stereotypical behaviors of the typical dog who has gone “kennel crazy.” Monkeys, dressed up like human children, will often have their teeth removed to make them less dangerous to their owners. Lions and tigers are continuously bred to provide a constant supply of baby animals to attract tourists to roadside attractions or photo opportunities. Older animals will be shipped to butchers who sell the animals parts for hundreds and thousands of dollars.

The private ownership of exotic animals should be closely regulated. Owners must be required to provide adequate shelter and veterinary care for all of their animals. To eliminate the breeding of exotic animals within our state, owners should be required to either neuter their adult animals or provide secure segregated housing to control breeding opportunities. In order to protect the public, Wisconsin should require the owners of inherently dangerous exotic animals to maintain liability insurance of at least $250,000.00 per animal. Only those persons who are financially able to provide adequate shelter, food, water, veterinary care and enrichment should be allowed to own these wild animals. Wisconsin needs to join the majority of states that have already taken steps to control the harmful and dangerous trafficking of these beautiful creatures.

...the amount of money and violence involved in the international trade of these so called “exotics” is outranked only by that associated with drug running and arms dealing.
Alliance for Animals held a well-attended screening of the highly acclaimed documentary “One Lucky Elephant” at the East Side Club in Madison.

One Lucky Elephant is the story of a circus producer's journey to find elephant Flora a new home, revealing the unintended consequences of raising a wild animal in captivity. This fundraiser, complete with vegan appetizers from Bunky’s Café and access to the Tiki Bar was (voluntarily) orchestrated by our Elephants Living Free coordinator Maddie Keldahl. We cannot thank Maddie enough for her hard work and enthusiasm! We are lucky too! ♦️

US and Ghana Last Nations Still Allowing Experimentation on Chimpanzees

The Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act has been reintroduced as S.B.810 and H.R.1513. This nonpartisan bill has the leadership of Representative Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) and Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and Joe Lieberman (I-CT).

The purpose of this bill is to: 1) phase out invasive research on great apes and the use of Federal funding of such research, both within and outside of the United States; (2) prohibit the transport of great apes for purposes of invasive research; (3) prohibit the breeding of great apes for purposes of invasive research; and (4) require the provision of lifetime care of great apes who are owned by or under the control of the Federal Government in a suitable sanctuary through the permanent retirement of the apes.

“The chimpanzee is a poor model for illness research, and the vast majority of the 500 federally-owned chimpanzees are just wasting away in research laboratories resulting in millions of dollars of wasteful government spending,” said Sen. Cantwell. “This legislation would require these chimpanzees to be permanently retired to sanctuaries, where it is far cheaper to care for them — not to mention a better environment for these magnificent animals.”

At this time only one Wisconsin legislator (Rep. Gwen Moore, Milwaukee) has signed on as a co-sponsor of this act. Please contact your federal legislators and urge them to co-sponsor H.R.1513/S.810! ♦️
Geese Are Not the Problem

Earlier this year, in spite of overwhelming public opposition, the City of Madison hired the USDA to round-up and kill around 210 Canada geese in city parks. AFA tried to meet with Mayor Soglin beforehand but was put off until after the slaughter.

We were finally given an audience on October 10, 2011. At that meeting, Mayor Soglin said that his main concern was public health. We explained that the Parks Department’s stated reasons for wanting to kill the geese had changed over time. He acknowledged our concern over this inconsistency and promised to follow up with the Parks Department.

We explained that the public health risk claimed by the Parks Department was not supported by scientific fact and that there are proven humane methods discouraging geese from congregating in areas of human use. An assistant to the mayor promised that the Parks Commission and staff will consider information provided by AFA.

Simply Vegan News

World Go Vegan Week

World Go Vegan Week is a time to make “vegan” a household word. This year AFA teamed with local restaurants and businesses to spotlight vegan options in the Madison area. Participating this year were Bunky’s Cafe, Green Owl Cafe, Dandelion Cart, Monty’s Blue Plate Diner, Weary Traveler, A Room of One’s Own, Glass Nickel Pizza, and Ian’s Pizza. Visit our Simply Vegan website at www.simplyvegan.net for information about a vegan lifestyle.

AFA Welcomes Hannah West

We are thrilled to introduce Hannah West, AFA’s Vegan Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator. Hannah was co-organizer of Madison’s first Mad City Vegan Fest, which was a great success this summer. A lifelong Madison resident and a current student at the UW, her knowledge, skills, enthusiasm, and passion for veganism and animal rights will be a perfect fit for our growing organization. Hannah is overflowing with ideas and is looking forward to putting her passion for animals to work! To join our groups of volunteers contact Hannah at hannahw.afa@gmail.com.

Annual Chili Cook-Off Expands to Include Popular Restaurants

Everyone was a winner at our annual chili cook-off this year. A huge crowd enjoyed six versions of vegan chili provided by Bunky’s Café, Dandelion Cart (People’s Choice winner) Green Owl Café, Monty’s Blue Plate Diner, Tex Tubbs Taco Palace, and Weary Traveler (First Place winner). Local musician David Sewell provided lively entertainment and local artists Marcia Sparks and Tiffany Olson donated prints for our raffle.

AFA staff Lynn Pauly and Hannah West with People’s Choice winner Braulio Maximiliano from Dandelion Cart.
Tributes

In Memory

* Dr. Elaine Parliman and Little Cat, two incredible beings, from Hildy Nelson.
* Milo, from Chris Wales.
* Harry Nelson, from Bernice Oberbeck.
* Fuzzy, Betsy Munro’s sweet little one and mother of big boy Barney. We miss you so, from Betsy, Betty and Thomas Munro, MaryDawn and Ryn.
* Otto, we love and miss you so very much, from Patsy Bansley and family.
* Marly, companion cat of Megan Ryan.
* Botswana Gerbil and Josie Guinea Pig, from Amy Burns and family.
* Sara, Beautiful Queen Chicken, from Marina and Steve Drake and Betsy Munro.

In Honor

* Tony Nozzi from Brian Endl.

Thank You

* To Amy Burns, for serving on the AFA board from 2009-2011. Amy drove many miles to attend our meetings while working, home schooling, and caring for several dozen animals at her home. We will miss you!

Tributes of 20 words or less will be listed for a $25 donation.

Benediction for the Animals

We ate no flesh in Eden, but afterwards, when things got hard, we forgot the peaceful kinship of that ancient kingdom. As our teeth sank into their flesh we had to deny them. So we said they had no souls, no reason, no thumbs, no speech. We were so different. We made a chain of things to protect us – fire, medicine, our locking houses, many kinds of clothes. And we renamed them – farm product, fur crop, renewable resource. Pray that we will see their faces again in the mirror of creation, the miracle of animals, their clear eyes meaning more than profit to our own.

Jean Pearson
From Earth Prayers, edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon
Alliance for Animals Annual Meeting
Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Hawthorne Branch, Madison Public Library
All are welcome at our annual member meeting where we will introduce new members of the AFA staff and Board of Directors as well as present an overview of AFA’s work this past year and plans for 2012. Vegan refreshments provided. Membership in Alliance for Animals is only $25/year.

Fur Free Friday Protest
Friday, November 25, 2011, 1:00 -3:00 p.m.
Edgebrook Shopping Center, Rockford, IL
Join AFA Janesville as they remind shoppers that fur comes at a terrible price. We will be protesting outside the Fur Company at Edgebrook Shopping Center, Rockford. Dress warmly.
For more information contact Les at lesbiumreich@hotmail.com.

Fourth Annual Vegantines Dinner and Dance
Saturday, February 11, 2012, Time TBA
Madison East Side Club with catering by Bunky’s Café
Guest speaker Melanie Joy, author of Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows
Get Vegucated!
April 14, 2012, Time and location TBA
AFA along with UW Madison’s Animal Rights Society will present a public screening of Vegucated.

Spring Fiesta and Silent Auction
Saturday, May 5, 2012
UW Arboretum, Time TBA.

Mad City Vegan Fest 2012
Saturday, June 9, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa, Madison
Speakers, vendors, food, and much more! www.veganfest.org

Dates and times are subject to change so please check our website regularly for latest event information.