Here’s What We’ve Been Up to Lately:

**FEBRUARY 13-15, 2015**

Championed elephants at the Zor Shrine Circus.

**APRIL 7, 2015**

For Humane Lobby Day, we joined statewide activists in lobbying for an exotic animals bill and against ag-gag and the UW open records exemption. Details on pages 4-5

**APRIL 11, 2015**

Sponsored the largest Meat Out yet, serving 175 people free vegan food. Read a quote from the organizer on page 7.

**APRIL 13, 2015**

Participated in the 88th Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

**APRIL 19, 2015**

Provided support and materials for the first major Ambassador-organized event: tabling at the Northshore Festival! Learn more about Tim, the ambassador who put this tabling opportunity together, and our two other great ambassadors, on page 6.

**FEBRUARY 21, 2015**

Brought over 50 animal activists together at the first ever Volunteer Info Fest and Appreciation.

**APRIL 15, 2015**

Won a huge victory when the UW open records exemption was dropped from the budget bill!

**APRIL 18 & 25, 2015**

Continued to speak out for the baby monkeys in Kalin’s experiment with a brainstorming lunch and sit-in on April 18 and leafleting on April 25, in honor of World Laboratory Animals Liberation Week. Details on page 3

**APRIL 22, 2015**

Sponsored a screening of the documentary, *Cowsspiracy*.

**MAY 2, 2015**

Held another successful World Wide Vegan Bake Sale in Madison, which followed one organized by Anna in Fox Valley on April 17 and 18!
Happy spring, animal advocates!

You may notice that this newsletter has a new look. As part of our ongoing effort to put your dollars where they do the most good, I’ve been working with a handful of volunteers on this month’s newsletter. One offered to create a beautiful, new, cost-saving design. I hope you love it as much as I do!

This issue features an article by a new volunteer who is a fierce advocate for lab animals. You’ll also find profiles of our new ambassadors, a special section about Humane Lobby Day, and dedications to long-time board member, Betsy Munro.

We also want to give you two great ways to support the Alliance. Our committees are growing day by day, and with three new ambassadors, we have opportunities for volunteering across the state – including our favorite summer event, Mad City Vegan Fest! Throughout the newsletter, you’ll see opportunities to Get Involved!

For those who are able to help financially, we’re highlighting our Friends of Alliance monthly donor program. Although we are buoyed by your incredible generosity at the end of the year, the consistency of monthly donations helps us grow more effectively.

Monthly contributions of even $5 make a real difference. If you already give annually, consider giving that amount in monthly installments. Just go to allanimals.org, click on the donate button, and check “I want to contribute this amount every ___ months.” As a special incentive, all monthly donors signed up by August 1st will get a special YouTube surprise!

I hope this update makes you feel a part of a strong, vibrant, joyful, and compassionate community. We are many, and we are making a difference. I’m proud to be your partner in creating a kinder Wisconsin.

For all animals,

Hannah
Activists Protest Primate Testing

By Josh Davis

Last July, Noah Philips wrote an article in which he exposed some controversial upcoming animal research that had been approved at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Under the direction of lead researcher Ned Kalin, 40 rhesus monkeys would be taken from their mothers at birth, exposed to threats, and killed before they reached two years of age.

The presumed end result of Kalin’s research, of which this experiment is only a part, is developing a drug for use on adolescents at risk for developing anxiety disorders.

In response to Kalin’s proposed experiments, the Animal Legal Defense Fund requested information on the approval of the experiment. Universities are required by the Animal Welfare Act to gain approval for all use of animals in testing by an Internal Animal Care and Use Committee. When UW-Madison refused to provide the records, the ALDF sued.

According to the ALDF, it was in response to this that Scott Walker attempted to introduce an amendment into the Wisconsin state budget bill to protect UW research from the state’s open records laws. The amendment was thrown out of committee this month.

Other activists have protested this research, as well. Last year, Dr. Ruth Decker wrote a change.org petition opposing the experiments. The petition already has over 400,000 signatures.

The Alliance has been fighting these experiments since they were first announced, most recently with an April 18th “sit-in” protest at UW-Madison, outside of the Harlow Center for Biological Psychology, where the experiments are slated to take place. Prior to the protest, UW-Madison had placed an anti-protest sign, seen above, leading people to a website of its own that defends animal testing.

With tests slated to begin in June, time is running out for Kalin’s monkeys. UW-Madison has conducted tests on primates since Harlow joined the faculty in the 1930s. Given that primate testing has gone on at UW-Madison for over 70 years, one wonders what would be necessary to see a stop to primate testing at UW Madison.

The U.S. lags behind other countries in protecting animals. In 2002, Germany made strong constitutional provisions to protect animals under their Animal Welfare Act. Provisions that extend to lab animals and farmed animals.

In 2007 the parliament of the Balearic Islands, an autonomous community in Spain, granted personhood rights to all great apes, and urged Spain as a whole to do so.

New Zealand has forbidden the use of five great ape species in research and teaching. And Austria, the Netherlands, and Sweden have all banned the use of great apes in testing.

The U.S. has shown the smallest glimmer of hope via a New York judge’s recent decision to grant habeas corpus to two chimpanzees. At the same time, there are no protections for other primates, such as rhesus monkeys. Until such protections are introduced, activists will continue to speak out against these atrocities and agitate for a long-term change.

GET INVOLVED!

The Anti-Vivisection Group fights animal experiments at Covance and UW. Contact hannah@allanimals.org.
Humane Lobby Day

Our ability to help animals is only as great as the strength of our relationships with other human beings.

This day is about relationships with each other, and it’s about relationships with our legislators, and for me, it’s very much about wanting to make a connection with each of you.

- Melissa Tedrowe, HSUS - WI

Why have a special section about an event hosted by HSUS?
As animal activists, we know that the more people we can get behind our cause, the better it is for the animals. Humane Lobby Day is the epitome of that effort. The Alliance and the Humane Society of the United States don’t always agree on every issue, but on this day, we were in congruence.

Melissa Tedrowe, HSUS-WI director and former Alliance board member, hosted a beautiful event where nearly 100 people attended, spoke to their legislators, and learned about important issues facing Wisconsin animals.

It was an empowering day of building relationships, meeting like-minded people, and learning from experts. I had a wonderful time and left with a feeling that I had really done something positive for the animals. The event was so informative and important that I wanted to share my experience.

Humane Lobby Day: a First Timer’s Report
9:30 am: Arrive at the Concourse. Stood in line to check in and realized we were surrounded by Alliance friends! Sat down together and ate some vegan treats.
10:30 am: The learning portion! There were presentations on multiple issues, and I learned SO. MUCH. (See information about ag-gag and wolves later in this section.)
11:30 am: Lunch at Cooper’s Tavern.
1:00 pm: We meet with Rep Kahl and his staffer, Mike. Both are very supportive of the issues we mentioned. Yes!
2:30 pm: We meet with Senator Miller. The senator supports two of our three initiatives, but stands behind the UW open records exemption.
2:45 pm: Said our goodbyes. We parted ways with a feeling that we did something really positive for the animals.

The Problem with “Quick Reporting”
If you’ve been following us online, you know that Wisconsin is preparing to fight an ag-gag bill – a bill criminalizing taking video or photographs of farms without the owner’s permission.

This most recent round of ag-gag bills focuses on “quick reporting,” a condition to turn in any evidence of abuse within a short time limit. Why are so many activists against quick reporting? Chris Green of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) gives us an excellent analogy of DEA agents working undercover.

Imagine a DEA agent who gets evidence of a $5 drug buy just days after going undercover. In one state, with a quick reporting requirement, the agent files a report and arrests a teenager selling marijuana. However, the agent’s identity is revealed and the investigation is over.

In a state without a quick reporting requirement, the agent is able to stay undercover, witness larger drug deals, identify key figures, and take down the entire drug ring.

Which state would you rather live in?

Ag-Gag Through the Years
Early 1990s: Early ag-gag laws are basically anti-trespassing laws that also forbid recordings. In 1992, the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, the predecessor to the 2006 Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA), is passed.

2000s: The privately-run, American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), creates the AETA. The first version of the AETA makes it a felony to make recordings with intent to
commit criminal activities or defame a facility, but this provision is considered too extreme, and stricken from the final version. The AETA is passed in 2006.

**2010:** ALEC dusts off the ag-gag provision and starts trying to pass it at the state level. Elements of ag-gag 2.0 include criminalizing recording, video, or audio of farm facilities, even by long-term employee whistleblowers; criminalizing obtaining a job under “false pretenses”; and requiring “quick reporting” of suspected abuse within a certain time frame (for example, in Missouri, it’s 12 hours).

**2014:** Animal Agriculture Alliance tells industry media that their legislative centerpiece will be a “quick reporting” bill. The group copies New York’s anti-terrorism slogan: “If you see something, you should say something; it’s that simple.”

**2015:** In January, the Wisconsin Dairy Business Association formally registers an interest in legislation pertaining to videotaping or recording at an animal agriculture facility without the permission of the owner. Since then, six bills have been introduced nationwide, all couched as anti-cruelty measures with the “quick reporting” focus. We’re still waiting for the Wisconsin bill to be introduced, but we’re ready to fight it when it comes.

**Wolf Hunting and Delisting**

The first bounty system for wolves was implemented in Wisconsin in 1865 and it lasted through 1957. In 1915, the U.S. government hired the first government wolf hunters, and by 1942 they killed over 24,000 wolves.

At Humane Lobby Day, HSUS Michigan State Director, Jill Fritz, shared her most recent experience with the centuries-old fight to protect wolves from being hunted.

The story starts in 2012. As soon as Michigan passes legislation to add wolves to the list of game species, citizens gather and deliver signatures for a citizen veto. In the time it takes to verify the signatures, Senator Tom Kasperson introduces a second bill allowing the governor appointed Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to designate wolves as game. This second bill passes. The signatures for the first bill are verified, but the NRC uses the second law to start planning a wolf hunt.

In 2013, MLive, a statewide newspaper chain, releases a series about the wolf hunt. In it, reporters find that Kasperson and DNR agents lied about wolves endangering people, and the NRC deleted or ignored thousands of emails from Michigan citizens who opposed the wolf hunt. They also find that most livestock wolf attacks took place on one farm where the farmer was baiting wolves with animal parts. Even with this expose, Michigan has their one wolf hunt. Since there is no trapping, they only kill 22 out of the possible 43.

Citizens then collect and submit signatures against the second law, the DRC law. The signatures are verified, and both laws are set to be voted on in November. However, Senator Kasperson talks to the hunting and trapping lobby groups, and they repackage his law as a citizen’s initiative. They collect the requisite signatures by advertising other measures included in the bill, like free hunting licenses for military. This citizen initiative passes, and HSUS announces a lawsuit.

In the general election of November 2014, citizens vote down both laws. In December 2014, the result of the lawsuit filed by HSUS comes back and the judge rules overwhelmingly to put all wolves in the great lakes region back on the endangered species list. For now, wolves are safe, and Michigan is ready to fight to keep them that way.

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**GET INVOLVED!**

The Farmed Animals Committee works on behalf of farmed animals and the environment by promoting veganism. They table at festivals and expos in Madison. They started a Vegan Mentor Program. And they have other projects in the works. Contact gina@allanimals.org.
Meet Your Alliance Ambassadors

Brittany and Michael Disher
Central Wisconsin (Wausau)
Ambassadors since February, 2015
tofuneverscreams07@gmail.com

**Why do you think people should get involved with the Alliance and/or animal issues?** People should get involved with the Alliance because it is only by joining these efforts and by taking progressive action that we will achieve collective societal awareness of why animal cruelty and exploitation is wrong and needs to end.

**Favorite animal rights or activist quote:** For its conciseness and truth, Mahatma Gandhi’s famous words: “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

Anna Peterson Sanders
East Central Wisconsin (Appleton)
Ambassador since March, 2015
cpetersonsanders@yahoo.com
on Facebook at Fox Valley Vegan Bake Sale

**Why do you think people should get involved with the Alliance and/or animal issues?** Getting involved with the Alliance is a terrific way to become active in speaking on behalf of animal’s rights. By spreading the message of compassionate living through the various activities and events that the Alliance has to offer, we can truly make a difference in advocating for the most defenseless, voiceless, and innocent of beings on this earth.

**Favorite animal rights or activist quote:** “The purity of a person’s heart can be quickly measured by how they regard animals.” - Anonymous

Tim Swartz
Southeast Wisconsin (Milwaukee)
Ambassador since February, 2015
tim@allanimals.org
(414) 477-9709

**Why do you think people should get involved with the Alliance and/or animal issues?** I would recommend anyone who is interested in changing our state culture’s traditional views about our relationship as a species to other animals to seriously consider joining in the efforts that Alliance for Animals and the Environment have been involved in for over 30 years. Having the support of an established animal rights/environmental organization in your activist efforts not only gives your work a more professional appearance to those whom you are trying to influence, but also provides you with access to funding, and to a network of like-minded, experienced activists who you can lean on for support, encouragement, friendship, and guidance.

**Favorite animal rights or activist quote:** “The notion that human life is sacred just because it is human life is medieval.” - Peter Singer

Ambassadors for the Animals keep the executive director posted about what’s happening in other parts of Wisconsin or in other organizations. They can also start campaigns, committees, and events in the Alliance’s name.

Right now, we are especially looking for:

- Intersectionality Ambassador
  people connected with human rights or environmental groups

- Faith Ambassador
  people connected with religious groups

- Diversity Ambassador
  people who are part of communities of color

- Youth Ambassador
  people under 18

- Regional Ambassadors
  Northeast, Northwest, South Central, and Southwest areas

Visit allanimals.org/ambassadors.php to learn more and download an application.

Help Us Save Trees!

Email alliance@allanimals.org to receive your newsletter by email instead of by snail mail.
Building an Edifice of Hope

“It has become a common feeling, I believe, as we have watched our heroes falling over the years, that our own small stone of activism, which might not seem to measure up to the rugged boulders of heroism we have so admired, is a paltry offering toward the building of an edifice of hope. Many who believe this choose to withhold their offerings out of shame. This is the tragedy of the world.

For we can do nothing substantial toward changing our course on the planet, a destructive one, without rousing ourselves, individual by individual, and bringing our small, imperfect stones to the pile.

- Alice Walker

Paws Up to Betsy for 24 Years of Service

Before recently retiring from the Alliance, Betsy was board president multiple times, as well as a committed leader of the companion animals committee.

Perhaps her most impressive achievement was co-coordinating the effort that led to the relocation of the Henry Vilas Zoo elephants to the Elephant Sanctuary and Riverbanks Zoo.

A number of our members expressed their heartfelt thanks to Betsy. Here is a sample of the comments we received:

I appreciate Betsy for her dogged enthusiasm. If you said you can't do whatever, she would say WHY and see that you could. I liked her dauntless spirit. And I liked her cats. Perhaps now that she won't be on the board, there will be time for a couple more! Theron Ris

I first met Betsy when I joined the Companion Animal Committee in 2006, and immediately felt welcome to the Alliance, and impressed by the scope of her knowledge and willingness to go the extra mile. Betsy has always been committed to making a difference for all animals, treating people fairly, and inspires everyone she meets by her example, her sense of humor and her intelligent kindness. Marina Drake

In Memory

Dog Companions: Nikki, Ginger, Shanti, Heidi, Nicky.
Also kitties and bunnies. Rest in peace and love.
We will meet again.

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

Paws Up to Elephants Living Free and Other Circus Activists

for putting pressure on Ringling Brothers and forcing them to cut elephants out of the act!

Paws Up to Lab Animal Advocates

for challenging the UW open records exemption and getting it struck from the budget bill!

Paws Up to Pig Protectors Across Wisconsin

who spoke out about the cruel Stephensville pig wrestling, causing the St Patrick Catholic Parish to cancel the event!

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Mad City Vegan Fest is Next Month!

The fifth annual Mad City Vegan Fest is coming up soon... Saturday, June 27 at the Goodman Community Center. Vegan Fest is the Alliance’s largest event of the year, and admission is completely free.

Join an expected crowd of over 2,000 attendees for delicious food (free samples and larger portions for purchase), inspiring speakers, cooking demonstrations, a great variety of exhibitors (some with products for purchase), and raffles throughout the day – get a free raffle ticket just for showing up! (Check out veganfest.org for a complete list of presenters, exhibitors, and raffle items.)

Mad City Vegan Fest is a great opportunity to learn more about protecting animals, the environment, and your health. It’s an event where everyone is welcome – from omnivores who are just curious, to longtime vegans and vegetarians.

Help us advertise! Download a poster at veganfest.org/poster. Then print it out and put it up at your favorite spots. Thanks!

GET INVOLVED!

Would you like to volunteer at the fest? We’ll need help setting things up and taking them down, greeting attendees, answering questions, and more. If you’re interested, please fill out the short form on our website or send an email to volunteer@veganfest.org.