Chili Cook-Off 2014

This year’s eleventh annual cook-off was an amazing success with eight local restaurants, 194 attendees, awesome raffle prizes, spot-on judges, and super volunteers! This year’s winners of both the Judges’ and People’s Choice awards were — First Place, Eldorado Grill; Second Place, Ladonia Cafe; and Third Place, Liliana’s.

Thank you, Restaurants!
We had 8 local restaurants participating in the cook-off this year who brought eight spectacular vegan chilis!: Sunprint Cafe, Eldorado Grill, the Green Owl Cafe, Liliana’s, Monty’s Blue Plate Diner, Tex Tubb’s Taco Palace, Weary Traveler, and Ladonia Cafe. Thank you all so much!

Thank you, Judges!
Thank you to our judges! Julia Burke, “Isthmus” food writer; Lindsay Christians, “Cap Times” food writer; Simone Doing, Art Educator and Co-Curator of the Justified Art Project; Dama Foster, co-owner of Sol D’Licious Cafe; Lamar Foster, co-owner of Sol D’Licious Cafe; and Dr. Kevin Fullin, cardiologist.

Thank you, Raffle Donors!
Gymfinity, Ian’s Pizza, Liliana’s, Be Inspired Salon, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Marigold Cafe, El Dorado Grill, Tex Tubbs, Mad Cat, Higher Fire Art Gallery, Creature Counseling, Christine Rademacher, Kae Taylor, A Joyful Image, Burnie’s Rock Shop, Mother Fool’s Coffee House, Bad Dog Frida, Nutzy Mutz and Crazy Catz, Imperial Garden Restaurant, A room of ones own, Glass Nickel pizza, PF Chang’s, Sue Koehler Pottery, Noodles & Co., The Animal Rescue Site, Manna Cafe, Escapade Salon, Ale Asylum, Bandung, Blue Lotus Tattoo and Body Piercing, Comedy Club on State, Dog Den LLC, and Steep and Brew. THANK YOU ALL!

Thank you, Turtle Island Foods!
Thank you Turtle Island Foods for donating Tofurky Dogs and valuable coupons for our event!

And last but not least, Thank you VOLUNTEERS!
Thank you to all the incredible volunteers— we sincerely could not have done this without you! And thank you to Sarah Rose Smiley Photography for the beautiful pictures!
Alliance Board Members and Officers Share Thoughts on Motivations and Goals in Advocacy – Part 2 of 2

Gina Stuessy
Board Vice President, Chair, Farmed Animals Committee

Over the last year I’ve been learning more about how to be an effective animal advocate with our limited time and resources. I wish we could help each and every animal: dogs in shelters, elephants in circuses, monkeys in research labs. Each story I hear of an animal suffering is just as horrifying as the last. Unfortunately, we need to choose what advocacy efforts to get involved in. If we spend an hour protesting the circus, that’s an hour we’re not educating about trapping. So the question is: what should we do to save the most animals?

Farmed animal advocacy has been identified as the area where we can help the most animals per dollar (or per hour). There are vastly more animals killed for food than die in shelters, research labs, traps, and used in entertainment combined, and every person we reach has the power to change what they eat and immediately start saving animals’ lives. That’s why I’m so excited about the Alliance’s new Farmed Animals Committee! We’re reaching hundreds of people through tabling, video outreach, and at the farmers’ market.

Sue Miller
Board Member

You may have seen Sue’s car while driving around Madison. She has magnets on each of her front doors with a photograph of a pig and a dog and text that reads: “Why love one but eat the other? Choose vegetarian.” She loves to watch people read the saying and she especially likes it when she can engage someone in a brief conversation about their relationships with animals.

Sue’s first volunteer activity with the Alliance was passing out flyers about the abuse of elephants in entertainment at the Ringling Brothers Circus in Madison and she looks forward to every opportunity to be actively involved in bringing awareness to animal rights issues. Sue started her life as a revolutionary outsider marching against segregation and the Viet Nam war back in the 1960’s and doesn’t plan to stop marching any time soon.

Judi Duncan
Board Member

Judi moved to Madison late in 2013 and shortly thereafter joined the Alliance, where she quickly became involved in many activities. She’s on the Vegan Fest Planning Committee and Farmed Animals Committee, has tabled frequently at the farmers market, helped with the Great American Meat-Out, and with the Annual Chili Cookoff. She is particularly interested in the plight of farmed animals, and would love to raise awareness among the general public about the negative effects of meat and dairy on the environment and the welfare of animals.

Jim Arts
Treasurer

I’ve been an Alliance Board member about for 6 years. I grew up on a Rusk County dairy farm in Northwest Wisconsin. Just like many other farmers and farm kids, we appreciated farm animals of many kinds as central to the economic and cultural life of our family and of the community. Like other farm kids, I was proud when my 4-H calf “Beauty” won a blue ribbon at the county fair.

Of course, I found it hard to reconcile my caring for animals with the treatment they received. Their living conditions were often harsh, and an early death was virtually inevitable. But was it was justified as necessary. It’s not necessary any more. In fact, when the global impacts are reviewed, it is clear that animal agriculture should be abolished. These issues were made clear in John Robbins’ 1987 book “Diet for a New America” This book pulls together compelling reasons to adopt a plant-based diet.

One other powerful impact on me came from a 1933 bookmark distributed by the State Humane Agent. The bookmark was titled “Be Kind to Animals” and it is a summary of reasons to “Be Kind to Animals”. It was found in my mother’s possessions after she died.
2014 Alliance Highlights

Together with your contributions, the Alliance has accomplished a lot for animals in 2014—but we need your help to continue the work. Your generous donations will be used to promote compassion and respect for all animals and protect the environment we all share.

2014 Highlights:

• The brand new “Farmed Animals Committee,” which has welcomed 16 new members since June, started a new vegan mentor program, began to lay the groundwork for a restaurant outreach program, and organized the sold out Cowspiracy screening.

• Our biggest ever Vegan Fest (over 2,100 attendees and 48 exhibitors) and Vegan Chili Cook-Off!

• Tireless efforts against the Maternal Deprivation Experiments – testimony at a county board meeting, letters to the editor, protests, a vigil, partnership with the ALDF to create a pamphlet, door to door canvassing, tabling, and more.

• Our most ever tabling events (7), where we handed out vegan food, did pay-per-view, informed people about the maternal deprivation experiments, spread the Alliance name, and debuted our beautiful new tablecloth and generously donated new canopy.

• Led a workshop for Stoner Prairie Multiage 1st-5th graders where students learned about the importance of being kind to animals and helping your community, and made thank you cards we sent to donors with the end-of-year donation thank yous.

Go to allanimals.org/2014-year-in-review.php to see the complete “2014 Year in Review.”

Changes at the Alliance

This was a year of change for the Alliance! We hired a new executive director: long-time Alliance volunteer and Mad City Vegan Fest founder, Hannah West (pictured).

We are grateful for the new ideas and energy from our new ED and board members, and we are lucky to have had the time we did with the board members we lost. You can read about our new board members in the upcoming newsletter, or see their short bios at http://allanimals.org/aboutus.php.

Join Us for Volunteer Appreciation and Info Fest

Volunteers are the cornerstone of our work here at the Alliance for Animals and the Environment. We do our best to provide meaningful, rewarding volunteer experiences for individuals of all ages and interests. Many of our volunteers have been with us for decades, as they enjoy taking action on behalf of animals and engaging with like-minded people.

Join us at the brand new Madison Central Library to learn more about volunteer opportunities for the year and to share your volunteer knowledge with others. All are welcome! There will be food donated by Willy St., Bunky’s, Brown Rice and Honey, Ian’s Pizza, and more!

For more information visit allanimals.org/info.

Saturday, February 21, 2015, 1 pm - 3 pm
Madison Central Library, Meeting Room 302

The Alliance Goes to School

On Friday, November 14th, we worked with a great group of 1-5th graders in the multi-age program at Stoner Prairie School. The kids made dog toys and beautiful thank you cards that some lucky donors got this holiday season! We had so much fun working with all the students and learning all about what animals mean to them.

If you would like to arrange for us to visit your school, email hannah@allanimals.org.

Woman Up! in Milwaukee

We had a great day at Milwaukee’s “Woman Up!” event in February, handing out vegan Tofurky & almond milk samples and literature encouraging attendees to make compassionate vegan choices for the animals, their health, and the environment. We’re so grateful for all our Milwaukee friends who volunteered to help! We look forward to doing more activism in the Milwaukee area in the future. And thank you Tracie B. for the pictures!
January 1, 2015

Dear AFA

Friends,

Christmas Day, B-C, my beloved kitty companion of twenty-one years, left this world.

There are no words to express how much I miss him. I will always remember and hold dear the memorable years we shared. B-C will live on in my heart forever.

In friendship,

Deanna (Dee Dee S. Devaul)

T-C (Kitty), Dusty and Quinn, (Llamas)

Remembering Our Friends

In precious memory of my dog companions: Trixie, Nikke, Heidi, Ginger, Shanti, Bernie, Nicky. Rest in peace and love.

In memory of Betty Munro: A donation by her daughter Betsy.

Barbara Mahling: In honor of Barbara Lynn, a sweet and curious chicken.

Mad City Vegan Fest (Save the Date)

Saturday, June 27, 2015, 10 am - 5 pm

Goodman Community Center

149 Waubesa Street, Madison, WI 53704