**Alliance Runs Anti-Circus Advertisements in Madison**

“Your ticket to the circus supports a lifetime of misery.”

That heading alongside an image of a forlorn captive tiger will be gracing the sides of several Madison Metro Transit buses from January 23 through the weekend of the Zor Shrine Circus at the Alliant Energy Center in February.

The campaign, a project of Alliance for Animals, was the idea of longtime Alliance volunteers, Julie Grosso, Deb Fields, and Lynn Pauly. The ads make it clear that when someone buys a ticket to the circus, they are partly responsible for the miserable lives endured by the captive tigers, elephants, ponies, and camels, who are forced to perform unnatural and demeaning acts in order to “entertain” humans. Four years ago, the Alliance was successful in passing a ban on elephant acts at the Alliant Energy Center, however, the ban won’t go into effect until 2020.

The Alliance depends on our volunteers to keep animals in the news. What started as an idea ended up a reality because of volunteers, with the Alliance’s support. Do you have an idea you would like to see put into action, but need the resources of a well-known organization to make it a reality? Let us know. We will gladly listen.

These ads would not be possible if it weren’t for the donations of generous Alliance supporters. So thank you! Bus ads are effective but are not cheap. Each ad runs $350 per bus. We hope to continue sponsoring ads that speak out for the rights of animals, so if you would like to help sponsor a future bus ad, contact Lynn Pauly at lynnp@allanimals.org.

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**Volunteering for the Alliance**

The Alliance is using a new volunteer management tool which is making it easier than ever for us to help you help animals!

We need volunteers in the Madison area - at the Dane County Farmers Market, various expos, and Alliance events - to help us promote veganism and compassion for all animals. We also need volunteers in the Milwaukee and Waukesha areas to do similar outreach. Besides tabling help, we welcome volunteer bakers for our fundraisers and people to help with administrative tasks such as data entry and mailing preparations.

If you do not live near Madison or Milwaukee there are still ways you can help the Alliance. Submitting recipes for our Veg eNews or writing short articles for our social media or blog are great ways to contribute. If you are very ambitious we can help you set up a tabling event in your area.

If you want to be included in our volunteer communication list, email sara@allanimals.org. Tell us how you would like to help. Be sure to note your special skills or interest.
13th Annual Vegan Chili Cook-off and Raffle Recap

The 13th Vegan Chili Cook-off and Raffle was a fantastic event that raised over $3,000 to support the Alliance throughout the year and we are already starting to plan the 14th!

We absolutely could not do it without our volunteers, musicians, judges, bakers, raffle prize donors, restaurants, and food product donors. Many thanks to all of our participating restaurants: Liliana’s Restaurant, Eldorado Grill, Tex Tubb’s Taco Palace, Ale Asylum, Ladonia Cafe, and The Green Owl Cafe.

Food donations were also provided by Woodman’s - Madison, WI (East), Tofurky, Willy Street Co-op, and Lushlife Vegan Bakery & Raw Vegan Lifestyle.

Boys and Girls Club Holds Canned Hunt

The Boys and Girls Club of Janesville is holding a Pheasant Hunt fundraiser on February 11, 2017. This is a canned hunt, where captive birds are released, so that hunters can shoot and kill them. There will be two hunts, which will take place in Evansville, WI. For every hunter, three pheasants will be released. Adults and children under 18 are invited to hunt.

These animals are bred in captivity purely to be hunted for sport. These hunts are cruel activities, in which the hunted animal has little chance of escape. In fact many hunting groups oppose canned hunts and several states have banned them.

Scrap the Trap!
Humane Wildlife Conflict Resolution

by Kelly Osborn of Wisconsin Wildcare

Do you have squirrels in your attic? A raccoon in your garage? Skunks under your deck? An opossum in your crawl space? You might not now, but do you know what to do if you did? Most people, even animal lovers, don’t really think about it until it happens to them. Unfortunately, when it does happen, the outcome can be disastrous for wildlife - and not necessarily only for the animals that triggered the response.

Many homeowners will turn to a “critter control” or “nuisance wildlife” service. Others, hoping to save a few hundred dollars, try to take matters into their own hands. They might think they are being humane by using a live trap to capture an animal, transporting it miles away to a rural area “where it belongs.” Unfortunately, neither of these approaches is humane, nor do they do usually solve the “problem.”

Why does wildlife seek shelter in a human dwelling in the first place? Our noises, smells, pets and activity stress them out. They are afraid of us and would not rather
den in our spaces. But human development destroys natural habitat not only as new homes are built, but when we cut down old decaying trees, clear brush piles and mow tall grass in established neighborhoods. The majority of wild animals that den in a human space are pregnant females seeking a secure nest for their babies - one that is warm, dry and predator-free.

Every spring, calls to critter control services skyrocket. In the interest of generating business, they play on the fears of the homeowner, exaggerating or even blatantly lying about the potential damage that wildlife can do. For $100 or more, the service will place a trap - live or a kill - near the suspected entry point. If an animal, any animal, is caught, they will charge another $100 to remove it. The irresistible smell of the trap bait lures innocent wildlife just searching for a meal. Each time the trap goes off, the nuisance wildlife bill increases by $100 and another animal dies.

The effect doesn't end there. In springtime there are ALWAYS babies. The critter control service knows this, but will happily collect another $100 per head when the babies start crying a day or two later, and even more if a hole has to be cut in the ceiling or wall to extract them. Often, realizing what they've done, the homeowner will call a wildlife rehabilitator at this point. Out of guilt, they hope to at least save the babies. Nevertheless, they will pay the nuisance wildlife control (HWC) services do not trap nor kill. The irony here is that even those who think they are being humane by live trapping and relocating the animal, really aren't. Wildlife have established territories to defend. They need to learn where to find food and water, what routes to take to escape danger. When you plop them in the middle of others' turf, most will die within a week. And, those who are nursing mothers will fight desperately to get back to their young.

More than half of the 200+ animals that Wisconsin WildCare takes in are orphaned by human ignorance. The same is true for other wildlife rehabilitation organizations. There is an alternative. Humane Wildlife Control (HWC) services do not trap nor kill. Their aim: to solve wildlife conflicts using methods that causes the least amount of stress to the animal as possible.

HWCs understand the natural behavior of the animals they work with, viewing wildlife as part of the surrounding ecosystem rather than a pest to be rid of. Understanding that squirrels, raccoons and other wildlife typically have an alternate den nearby, HWCs use eviction techniques to encourage the mother to move her family – intact - out of the human dwelling. Additionally, these services advise homeowners on how to prevent animals from entering their space in the future. Using these services, homeowners save both money and lives.

While there are only a handful of such services available in the U.S., many are willing to consult outside their service area. Fortunately, starting this spring the Madison area will have a humane alternative. As members of the nation-wide network of HWCs, with more than 15 years of wildlife experience, Wisconsin WildCare will be offering a humane alternative beginning in 2017 for a small tax-deductible fee.

• Animal Help Now! ahnow.org/resources.php#wildlifeconflict
• 411 Raccoon Solutions 411raccoonsolutions.com
• HSUS Humane Wildlife Services www.humanewildlifeservices.com

Contacting Legislators - Sen. Baldwin’s Dairy Pride Act

By Sara Andrews

With more corporate money in politics it is more important than ever to communicate with our legislators. I was intimidated the first time I made a call to my legislator, but after doing it once I realized it’s as easy as vegan pie. You can contact your legislators in a number of ways: send a letter, send an email, call the office, visit the office, or make a personal appointment. For most of us sending a letter or calling the office will be easiest. When calling you will most likely reach an aide or voicemail. Keep it simple. Give your name, phone number, and the piece of legislation/issue you approve or disapprove of. Include the bill number if you have it. Then leave a short comment.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin has sided with Big Dairy to sponsor the Dairy Pride Act which would disallow products made from nuts, seeds, and plants to be labeled milk, yogurt, or cheese. That means almond milk and coconut milk would no longer be called “milk,” and non-dairy cheese would no longer be called “cheese.” Perhaps the dairy industry should label their products “cow’s milk” or “cow’s cheese” if there is genuine concern about confusing consumers. The writing is on the wall. The popularity of vegan alternatives is impacting sales. It’s time for Wisconsin farmers to stop fighting the popularity of non-dairy products and adapt to the new marketplace. Instead of growing food for cows, they should start growing food for humans.

This is a great issue to practice on; give Sen. Baldwin’s office a call and tell her you do not agree with the Dairy Pride Act. Visit her website: www.baldwin.senate.gov/feedback
By Linda Rapp Nelson

My grandfather was a small dairy farmer. He was not a psychopath. He was not a cruel man. He thought he was helping to feed the world. He took his responsibility to his family very seriously. He learned his lessons from others before him. He didn't question the rightness or wrongness. It was his life's work.

I loved him.

He warned me not to play too close to the old well. He walked with me in the apple orchard. He pulled me on his lap, and gently stroked my cheek.

He loved me.

He slaughtered pigs. He pulled calves from their mothers. He dehorned cows, and he broke chicken's necks. He was a gentle man doing a great deal of violence that he thought was necessary.

I hate those things he did so much that I am vegan today. My mother, my brothers, my sisters, my aunt, my uncle, my cousins all accepted the things that I cannot.

They all feel jarred by my rejection of what they learned from this gentle man. They rail against cruelty towards cats and dogs and horses. They truly believe they are animal lovers.

I love them all.

Every pre-vegan we encounter is someone's grandpa, or sister, or friend. Withdrawing our love isn't always possible, and I don't believe it is the way forward even if we could. I think we can use our love to shine a light on the violence in our midst and to warm the hearts of those we care about to include all beings.

We have so many years of assumptions and tradition to work against, and only by acknowledging that pre-vegans are more like us than not can we reach a vegan future.

Firmness is called for. Truth should be spoken, but hate will only allow people to hunker down with what they know, and that will hurt the animals we want so much to protect.

Let's lead with love.