

Animal Voice

Rekindling the Spirit of Care and Respect for Life

Summer 2004



Sponsor a school of your choice
to receive a fabulous
Humane Education Pack
for Foundation Phase

Ed's column

Dear Readers –

First and foremost, I want to thank you for being such fabulous supporters – for all the postcard petitions you've sent off – for the BIG difference your active involvement is making. It is thanks to pressure from you that supermarket managers are actually talking to their suppliers about animal welfare. In fact, it is thanks to you that dairy giant Parmalat has begun to ring in the changes for calves. Don't under-estimate just what a difference this seemingly small concession makes in terms of reducing animal suffering in South Africa.

Please continue your invaluable support and efforts on behalf of the animals. Once again, please send off the postcard petitions enclosed so that those people in positions of influence can see just how determined we are to live in a country where we can be Proudly Human.

As you will see, we are now ready to launch our Humane Education Pack for Foundation Phase. This delightful pack is the first of its kind in that it links Humane Education to ALL learning areas in the Revised National Curriculum Statements. With your help, young learners across South Africa can learn the gentle and rewarding art of compassion, justice and respect for all life. Please see page five.

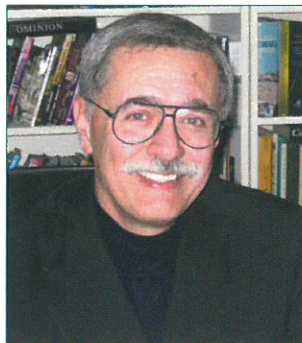
With appreciation and best wishes,
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Learners at Ukhanyo Primary School courtesy Dr Yvonne Robson, Project for the Upliftment of Pets and People (PUPP)
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The race is on to release all Moon Bears by the Beijing Olympics in 2008



**Australian man makes an impassioned appeal
to Nelson Mandela: 'You know what
it is to be incarcerated - Please help the bears ...'**

An Australian merchant banker, Philip Wollen (*above*), has sent a personal appeal to South Africa's revered elder statesman, Nelson Mandela, urging him please to help bring an end to the farming of bears in China for their bile.

Mr Wollen is founder of The Winsome Constance Kindness Trust in Australia and gives assistance to projects around the world which support children, animals, the sick, the environment and the youth.

In a poignant Open Letter appeal to Mr Mandela, accompanied by a book

of photographs that tell of the incalculable suffering of China's Moon Bears, Phil says: "My clumsy words cannot do justice to the plight of a magnificent soul, born free, caged in a steel prison, in terror, agony and confusion. All at the hands of my fellow human beings...

"Each Moon Bear has a life they treasure. But they don't get a life. They get a life sentence. Their crimes? They belong to another species. Their body parts have commercial value. And they can't fight back. There, but for the Grace of God, go I. And all of us.



Rescued bears playing in their new forest home at the Chengdu Rescue Centre in China.

"Because they can't speak for themselves, at least in a language we would understand, they cannot tell you of the horror they suffer every

7000 bears still incarcerated.

With moral and political leadership at the highest level of Chinese Government, the bear bile factories can be shut down in a heartbeat.

– Phil Wollen

moment of every day and night. "Mr Mandela, the China Moon Bears are never to be released. You were imprisoned for 27 years before the gates of Robben Island were opened by your courage and the voices of people around the world.

"I am asking everyone to actively encourage Mr Hu Jintao, President of The People's Republic of China, to free these 7000 majestic animals ...

"I need every human being on the planet to get aboard the Kindness Train. These tragic souls desperately need us. May I count on you to help?"

Jill Robinson, of the Animals Asia Foundation, and her helpers have rescued 139 bears so far. But there are 7000 more in steel cages on 247 bear bile farms in China today. Jill believes that the bears' freedom depends on the active help and participation from the highest political level in China. Only Mr Hu Jintao can make it happen.

"Sometimes we receive a message in life which is hard to ignore. In 1993, I walked onto a bear farm in China for the very first time. It was with utter disbelief that I witnessed a scene which would subsequently change my life and which would start the dream of the China Bear Rescue."

– Jill Robinson



"Without thinking, I took her paw and, whilst gazing into sad, dark, unblinking eyes, made a pledge that one day I'd be back to set her free." – Jill Robinson, Founder and Executive Director of the Animals Asia Foundation.

And Jill did return. Here she cuts open the steel cage and the first steps to freedom begin. For one bear.



The bears scream as their bile is painfully extracted by piercing steel catheters into their gall bladders. The bile is used for traditional medicine and, more recently, for shampoo, toothpaste and wine. Here a bear undergoes emergency surgery to remove an infected tumour caused by a catheter.

To Do! Animals Asia needs your help:

The race is on. The Animals Asia Foundation has set a target: By the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, there should not be one bear suffering misery and torture in China. Please send

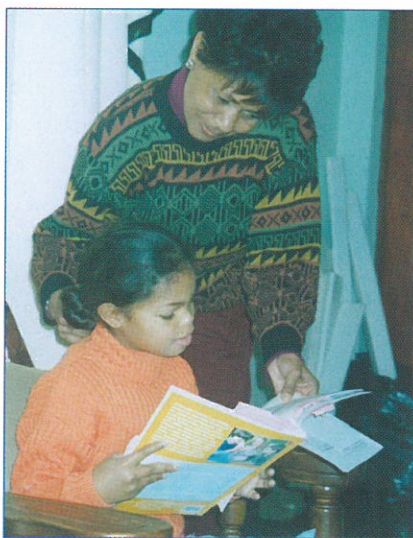
the postcard petition inside to Mr Liu Guijin, Chinese Ambassador to South Africa.

For more information visit Animals Asia on: **www.animalsasia.org**

Caring Classrooms

Teachers call for humane education materials

Below: **Vivienne Rutgers**, Head of Department for Foundation Phase at Forest Heights Primary School, says: "I first found humane education at the City of Cape Town's Youth Environmental School (YES 2004) this year. The Humane Education Trust had books for free on their stand. I was thrilled to find them and since then, I have been helping Louise (Director of the Humane Education Trust) to align the various activities with the Revised National Curriculum. Through Humane Education, I myself have become more aware of the cruelty to animals all around me and how dehumanizing it is. For my learners, I find that Humane Education builds their self-confidence. They feel worthy. Kindness is an empowering thing."



Vivienne Rutgers with her granddaughter Janice

Right: **Jenny Copeland** teaches at Langa Education Assistance Programme (LEAP). She says one of her Grade 9 learners put humane education in a nutshell, with the following observation when seeing the suffering of chickens on a street corner: "God made our brain to have more control so that we could look after anything in less control – including chickens."



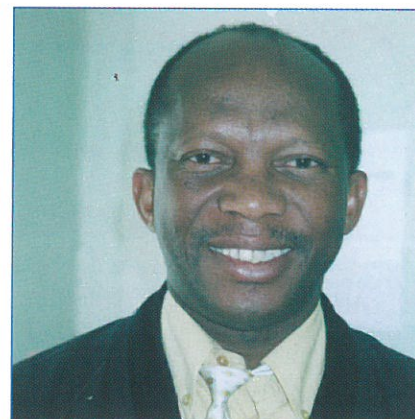
Charlotte Samuels

Charlotte Samuels, Acting Deputy Principal, Oranjekloof Moravian Primary School, Hout Bay, says: "One of our learners was involved in the stoning of a dog and that is how we came to hear about Humane Education. I feel it is absolutely vital for our learners. Humane Education is not about what you know but about who you are. I am determined that when our children leave this school, a sense of justice and respect for all life will go with them and remain with them for the rest of their lives."

"Humane Education is not about what you know but about who you are." – Deputy Principal



Jenny Copeland



Vuyisile Cenga

Vuyisile Michael Cenga, Principal of A.C.J. Phakade Primary School, Nomzamo, says all his teachers see the need for Humane Education. Recently, young learners from his school put five 4-week-old puppies in a bag and beat them to death. The Humane Education Trust was immensely pleased to receive Mr Cenga's phone call asking for our humane education materials.

Ubuntu Peace Messengers Go 'hands-on'

Many schools are expressing an interest in the Ubuntu Youth Club concept that is already well underway in schools in the Free State. The Ubuntu Youth Club programme is run by Beatrice Wiltshire. "Whereas in the past, clubs like the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Voortrekkers were exclusive, the Ubuntu Club is an inclusive, South African concept that clearly has great appeal to learners as an extra-mural activity," says Beatrice.

The Ubuntu Club's motto is "Working towards a Caring Society" and the *Ubuntu Peace Messengers* are very hands-on, says Beatrice. Schools wishing to establish an Ubuntu Club should contact Beatrice Wiltshire on Tel: (051) 451 1027 or Cell: 083 4000 262.

Creating a culture of Care and Respect

We need to capture the gentle nature of small children - *librarian*

"As a librarian I have often noticed that pre-school children, when sitting in small groups on the floor with picture books open in front of them, will stroke the picture of an animal, speak an endearing word, and even kiss the picture of the animal. It's made me wonder why, as they grow older, they will throw stones at animals, and be totally unconcerned about the well-being of animals. Grown men, when driving a car, won't slow down

for an animal on the road, and if they hit the animal, will leave it injured and dying ...

I am sure that with humane education, one could capture the gentle nature that does exist in young children, nurture it and help it to grow."

- Anne Nicolaidis

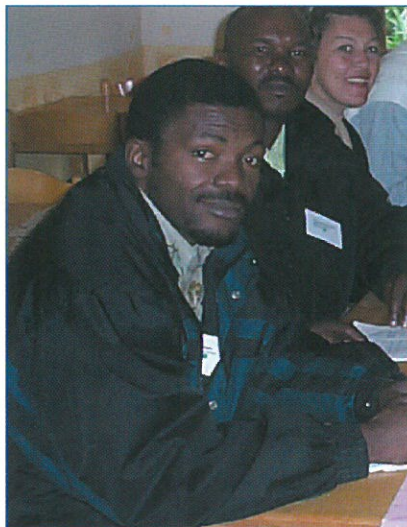
Retired Uvongo Librarian who helped establish a library in Gamalakhe, KZN, that now serves 10 schools in the area.

Janet Sandell, co-founder of Animals for Fun, visits Pollsmoor Prison regularly to teach dog-handling to juvenile women prisoners. She stands here with 4-year-old champion Border Collie, Tag, and one of the prisoners who takes part in the programme. Says Janet: "The dog-handling programme has been so beneficial for the girls that the prison is hoping to extend it slowly next year, allowing the girls to get to know dogs that have been rescued and slowly enable them to build up a relationship with them."



Janet Sandell with Tag and inmate

Right front: Azevedo Nhantumbo, a Curriculum Developer at the Ministry of Education in Mozambique, is in contact with the director of the Humane Education Trust (HET). "I would be happy If I could receive those materials which may be helpful to our researchers in the development of a new curriculum for secondary schools," he said in an email in August 2004. Mr Nhantumbo was one of the delegates who attended the All-Africa Humane Education Summit held in Cape Town in 2003, sponsored largely by Compassion in World Farming (UK).



Stacy Mallach of Kuils River was stroking her cat, Louis, when she thought she felt a tick. On investigation, she found a pellet from a pellet gun embedded in Louis's shoulder.



Photo courtesy DARG

This mange-ravaged, cruelly-emaciated dog was cornered by children in Hout Bay in August this year and stoned so brutally that in the end, she could not be saved. DARG (Domestic Animal Rescue Group) was alerted to her plight and immediately came to her rescue. DARG cut off the wire around her neck and gave her the only kindness she had probably ever been shown.

To Do!

Sponsor a school near you to receive our fabulous Humane Education Pack for Foundation Phase. See page five.

Fabulous Foundation Phase Pack of Humane Education Resource Materials now available

With special thanks to the painstaking efforts of teachers Rose Visser, Claudette Stanley (both of Kwa Zulu Natal) and Vivienne Rutgers, Head of Department (Foundation Phase) at Forest Heights Primary School in the Western Cape, the Humane Education Trust is pleased to announce the launch of our Foundation Phase Humane Education Resource Pack. And what a fabulous pack it is!

For just R200 per pack, you can give this gift to a primary school of your choice. Each exercise and activity has been developed so as to fit in with all eight Learning Areas in the Revised National Curriculum Statements for learners aged 6 – 10 throughout

South Africa. In addition, special care has been taken to make the pack teacher-friendly.

The pack includes:

- * A Board Game entitled Dog's Best Friend – A fun way to learn Numeracy, Literacy and Life Skills
- * A full-colour book containing 12 stories based on the NSPCA's Awards for Bravery plus a host of exercises and activities based on these stories – a fun way to learn Natural Science, Arts and Culture, Social Science, Economic and Management Sciences, Technology, Maths, Languages and Life Orientation.

* Numerous worksheets and activities take learners on a voyage of discovery, creating awareness, understanding and empathy for their fellow beings that will enrich them for the rest of their lives.

* Two additional readers.

* A Video on how to become Dog's Best Friend – this video is specially aimed at young learners.

To Do!

Please find the relevant postcard and return it to the Humane Education Trust with your sponsorship as soon as possible. We will do the rest!

Vivisectors and Animal Rights philosophers come face to face at UCT

The University of Cape Town set a precedent in August 2004 when it hosted a 'meeting of the minds' between philosophers, on the one hand, and bio-scientists engaged in animal experimentation, on the other. The two disciplines – philosophy and animal research – are often diametrically opposed to each other.

The one-day workshop on 'Ethical Issues in the Scientific Use of Animals' was held at the Faculty of Health Sciences and was organised by Professor David Benatar of the Department of Philosophy and Dr Graham Fieggen, chairman of the Animal Ethics Committee at UCT.

Speaking to about 100 bio-science students and scientists, Professor

Benatar said: "I suggest that there is a profound inconsistency in our moral judgments when it comes to animals."

He added: "It is too easy for us to say that the good (to humans) outweighs the bad (to animals) when we talk about our exploitation of animals. The underlying idea is that animals are there for our use and that it's okay for us to make a good lunch out of them or to experiment on them. But we need to stand back and look at this, even if it does make us a little uneasy."

Professor Benatar said it was difficult to step back from the prejudices that surrounded us in contemporary society. "I am worried that the enormous costs to the animals are not taken seriously enough and that the benefits to humans

are often trivial. If you look at how much suffering is involved, then the notion that the good outweighs the bad, may be utter self-deception."

Well-Known Ethologist, Professor Johannes Odendaal, said: "There is a contract between man and animal, signed or unsigned". Prof. Odendaal, who is also research professor at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Technical University of Tswana (TUT) in Pretoria, added that it was part of the present *zeitgeist* (spirit of the time) to question animal research and experimentation.

"Everyone is so 'discipline' orientated that the various disciplines don't easily talk to each other. For that reason alone, this is an excellent meeting", he said.

Struggle for Lives Worth Living for Farm Animals

Rescue of battery hens by Austrian academic is legal - Court ruling

An Austrian man who rescued seven laying hens from a battery farm near the town of St Polten, has had his conviction for breaking, entering and theft overturned. In an historic court ruling on 12th July this year, an Austrian Court of Appeal ruled that Martin Balluch, who has a doctorate in mathematics and physics, was not guilty after all because society at large agreed with his rescue of the chickens.



Dr Balluch

In March 2003, Dr Balluch, president of the Association Against Animal Factories, broke into a battery farm at midnight and rescued seven chickens. He was later convicted of theft and was fined 450 Euros plus costs (or 60 days imprisonment). The local media interviewed ordinary Austrian citizens about Dr Balluch's conviction and video footage of the battery farm was shown on television. A public outcry at his conviction ensued. In July this year, a three-judge court of appeal overturned Dr Balluch's conviction on the grounds that although he did break into the farm and remove the property of the farmer, society at large agreed with what he had done and this needed to be taken into account in terms of Austria's new animal protection laws.



Hens in a battery cage

Said Dr Balluch afterwards: "The atmosphere in society in regard to non-human animals is seriously changing! Another milestone has been achieved. A high court has ruled, basically, that breaking in and stealing animals from a factory farm is not a crime. This case sets a precedent, the consequences of which we cannot fully comprehend at the moment."



A sad day for billions of broiler chickens around the world as UK Court of Appeal rules it's okay to starve chickens

South African lawyer in UK court battle on behalf of broiler chickens



South African lawyer, Janet Kentridge (*above*), was part of the legal team for Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) (UK) that fought a court battle in London on behalf of broiler chickens in July 2004.

Because broiler chickens (table birds) have been bred to grow very fast, at least a quarter of them are crippled by leg distortions by the time they go to slaughter at just 40 days old. This is because their skeletons cannot develop quickly enough to support their very rapid weight gain. How then, one may ask, do broiler chickens ever stay standing long enough to reach maturity in order to lay eggs for the next generation? The answer is simple: young broiler breeders are fed only



25% of what they would normally eat to keep them thin enough to stay standing. While they don't actually starve to death, they are, as a result, chronically hungry. CIWF attacked the fact that broiler breeders live in a state of continuous & chronic hunger.

The court, however, ruled against CIWF's claim, stating that "... the acceptance of hunger in forms of husbandry is routine".

Commented Joyce D'Silva (*above*), Chief Executive of CIWF: "In effect, the court has ruled in favour of animal starvation and the ruling condemns millions of chickens to hunger and suffering every day. Surely this should not be legal in a supposedly humane society."

Janet Kentridge is a specialist in SA Constitutional law, and has practised at the Johannesburg Bar since 1995. Since 2001, she has also practised in London, as a member of Matrix Chambers.

Janet said she was proud to have acted on behalf of CIWF in this case, which raises important issues of principle in relation to animal welfare.

Consumers Hold the Key to Animal Welfare

Calves are given lives worth living on Cape dairy farm – thanks to awareness created by Animal Voice and its fabulous supporters!

The Monteith Trust Dairy Farm in the South Western Cape has committed itself to giving its male dairy calves lives worth living.

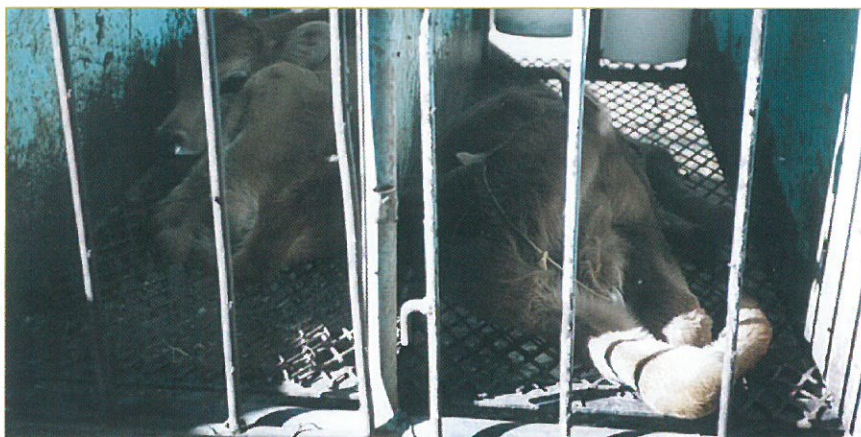
This follows our video “Saving Baby Ubuntu” which spotlights the plight of male dairy calves, as well as the hundreds of postcard petitions sent off by Animal Voice supporters to supermarket chiefs around the country.

Explains Werda Biesenbach, Corporate Communications Manager for Parmalat: “It’s about awareness. Through Animal Voice we have become sensitised. When the plight of these calves was brought to our attention, we decided to visit our suppliers. When we arrived at Monteith we were very pleasantly surprised as the calves were already in their new pens.



Parmalat's Werda Biesenbach

“We are grateful to Monteith for their co-operation which will set an excellent example to follow.”



Monteith's calves in March 2004



Monteith's calves in August 2004

Do you, as a Consumer, want an animal welfare label on foodstuffs?

Do Consumers want to see animal welfare labels on the products they buy? This question will be the focus of a new study by the Farm Animal Welfare Council in the UK. The study will determine whether there should be a label based on welfare issues and if so, what issues specifically these labels should address. In the USA, the

label “Certified Humane Raised and Handled” was launched in May 2003 by the organisation Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC). HFAC says that to earn the label, the producer must allow rigorous on-site inspections by HFAC veterinarians and animal scientists. In addition, animals must receive a nutritious diet without

antibiotics or hormones and must be raised with shelter, resting areas and space sufficient to support natural behaviour. Sixteen US companies are now certified to use the label.

For more information, visit the HFAC website on:

www.certifiedhumane.org

Illegal feeding of ships' swill contributed to death of 5000 pigs in the Western Cape

Unhygienic living conditions and the illegal feeding of waste food (swill) from ships in harbour resulted in some 5000 pigs dying in the Western Cape earlier this year.

About 10 pig farms were affected in the Philippi, Vredenburg and Kuils River areas. According to state veterinary information, the pigs

died from a combination of salmonella poisoning as a result of unhygienic living conditions, as well as from Blue Ear disease which was brought into the farms as a result of feeding swill from ships to the pigs.

Swill is partly liquefied food waste. The feeding of swill from ships in harbour is illegal. Blue Ear disease,

also known as Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), is a virus that, inter alia, affects the immune system of pigs. The strain of this virus has been identified as the American strain and not the European strain. It is believed that pork affected by the virus landed up in the swill of the ships and, in turn, was fed to local pigs.

Visitor to Cape Winelands is dismayed at plight of pigs

A visitor to a well-known wine farm in Paarl was horrified to find a piggery on the farm where pigs waded through their own excrement and mud. In addition, she said, the pigs had no shelter against the rain and cold of the Cape winter, their water was filthy and so was their food. "The weather was freezing and yet there was not a single dry place for the pigs," she said.

Animal Voice telephoned the Western Cape Pig Producers Association and Chairman, Mr Mike Heramb, said that although the piggery in question was not a member of his association, he would immediately approach the farmer concerned. The photographs (*right*) were taken in mid-winter 2004 on the Paarl wine estate.

To Do!

Would you like to see a Certified Humane Logo on all your animal-derived foodstuffs?

If so, please see relevant postcard petition enclosed.



Soon to be neatly wrapped on supermarket shelves or sold live for slaughter in informal settlements.



Cape Town Mom shows the big boys how to raise chickens without antibiotics

A young Western Cape mother of two is taking the market from under the noses of the organised poultry industry by producing table chickens (broilers) on free-range. And without the use of antibiotics to boot!

Jeanne Groenewald (*above*) and her husband Bryn are fruit farmers in the Elgin district near Cape Town. Eight years ago, they decided to raise 100 day-old broiler chicks for friends and family consumption. Naturally, Jeanne, who has a BSc Agric degree in animal physiology and genetics from the University of Stellenbosch, wanted her family to eat antibiotic-free chicken. For this reason, she could not rely on commercial broiler feed for her chicks because commercial feed includes antibiotics. Instead, she fed the chicks on duck feed which is free of antibiotics.

"We had these lovely plump chickens running around on the farm and everyone commented on how nice they tasted and we began getting calls from complete strangers who wanted our chickens," says Jeanne.

Today, Jeanne Groenewald has successfully farmed broiler chickens



Free-range broilers

for four years without the routine use of antibiotics. She markets 24 000 free-range, drug-free chickens a week to Woolworths, Pick 'n Pay, Checkers, Spar and selected Deli's and demand is such that she hopes to be marketing 32 000 a week by next year.

"It is my passion to produce a product of value," says Jeanne. "In addition, as a farmer, I am producing these chickens without poisoning the earth with antibiotic residue and that matters to me."

So what is the secret of Jeanne's success? The major ingredient of drug-free farming, says Jeanne, is the removal of stress which

compromises the immune system. She explains it like this:

The chickens' lives are de-stressed by decreasing stocking density and giving them free access to soil, grass and sunshine. The chickens are given top quality all-grain food to boost their immune systems – i.e. no rendered poultry meal (blood, feathers and dead birds) or fish meal.

A very strict bio-security system is in place whereby the sheds are empty for two weeks between flocks.

Jeanne's commitment to the respectful and humane treatment of chickens doesn't stop at the end of their lives. The night before slaughter, Jeanne's chickens are picked up individually (not by their feet or wings) and loaded on a truck for slaughter at her own abattoir, also in Elgin. "I take advantage of the fact that they are sleepy and thus, the stress of removal is minimized," she says.

Jeanne's free-range, drug-free broilers are to be found in most supermarkets and cost about R2 more per kilo. For more information visit www.freerangechickens.co.za

Antibiotics! "Without them, factory farming would never have got off the ground," says Soil Association.

Before the development of antibiotics in the 1940's it simply was not possible to rear animals as they are reared today. Today, says the Soil Association, the animals that provide our food are not reared on farms, or even by farmers. They are kept in vast industrial units that are owned by large corporations whose sole motivation for keeping them is profit. They spend their short miserable lives locked away

on concrete. They never step on grass, nor even glimpse the sun. Before the development of antibiotics it simply was not possible to rear animals like this. But antibiotics changed all that. By putting small amounts in the feed of pigs, poultry and even some cattle, it became possible to control bacterial diseases that spread like wildfire in overcrowded conditions. The routine use of antibiotics on farms has led to the emergence of superbugs that

are resistant to antibiotics. Says the Soil Association: If we want antibiotics to save lives and prevent suffering for the next generation in the way they have done for us, then we need to phase out the routine use of antibiotics on farms. To join the Soil Association's campaign for a return to organic farming techniques that remove the need for the routine use of antibiotics, please visit www.soilassociation.org

End-of-lay hens are sold live to the poorest of the poor as 'cheap food'

However this is a deception – the system rips off the poor and causes immense suffering to the chickens ...



Laying hens spend up to two years in a battery cage unable to exercise even one of their most fundamental natural behaviours such as scratching for food, dust-bathing, sun-bathing and laying their eggs in a nest. Their space allowance is less than an A4 sheet of paper per chicken. They are debeaked to prevent them from pecking their cage mates and often detoed to prevent them scratching their cage mates as they scramble over each other to get to the food in the front of the cage.

After two years, they are considered 'spent' because the frequency of their egg-laying begins to decline. They are then sold live to 'cull farms' for about R12 each. From there, hawkers buy them to resell in informal settlements. Many hawkers do not have adequate means of transport and tie the hens onto roof-racks or carry bundles

Left: End of the road. Their suffering will soon be over. From hatching to slaughter, these chickens lives were not worth living.



of them on bicycles, unavoidably causing immense suffering to the chickens who, by this stage, frequently have broken wings and legs. Once in the informal settlements, the chickens are killed, defeathered and sold yet again for the cooking pots of South Africa's poorest people, for between R28 and R30 each.

Just 3 kilometers away, Woolworths sells "Large" hygienically-wrapped, ready-to-cook chickens to top-end consumers, for R27.99. The "Mediums" go for R23.

To Do!

Please find the postcard addressed to Woolworths enclosed asking that once again it sets an example, and gives spent hens a humane end to their tormented lives.



Left: Poultry farmers say that by selling live end-of-lay chickens to the poor, they are helping to provide people with cheap protein. Yet the poor are actually paying more for their chickens than top-end consumers pay in Woolworths.

Towards Ethical Consumerism



March 2004: **Woolworths** bans battery eggs in all its stores nationwide. "From now on," said **Woolworths** CEO Mr Simon Susman, "no **Woolworths** laying hen will ever have lived or spent any of her life in a cage."



October 2004: **Woolworths'** Ayresshire farmers are committed to the humane treatment of all male dairy calves by **Woolworths'** new Code of Practice.



Woolworths' Ayresshire milk is rBST-free milk. rBST is a synthetic hormone that is injected into cows to increase their milk supply. Udders that are too big cause cows to become lame.



February 2004 (in response to appeal for the humane treatment of male dairy calves): **Shoprite/Checkers** Marketing Director, Mr Brian Weyers, said: "(You have) our full support and we will do everything in our power

to try to stop, or at least minimize, this ill treatment of these animals (male dairy calves)."



April 2004 (in response to appeal for the humane treatment of male dairy calves): **Pick 'n Pay's** Marketing Director, Mr Jonathan Ackerman said: "Should any of our suppliers be found to be supporting any (dairy) producer who does not endeavour to follow these norms (of humane treatment), their business association with **Pick 'n Pay** will be terminated."



July 2004 (in response to appeal to ban battery eggs): **The Spar Group's** House Brands Manager, Mr Graham Claasens said: "We totally support your drive for a more humane manner of producing eggs and will be striving for our producers to produce a greater number of eggs under free-range conditions ... Talks will continue with our producers on your behalf and hopefully, in the not too distant future, your dreams of no caged eggs will be realized."



August 2004 (in response to appeal to ban battery eggs): **Pick 'n Pay's** Marketing Director, Mr Johathan Ackerman said: "At **Pick 'n Pay** we offer a wide range of eggs including free range in addition to normal battery produced table eggs. We also sell Omega 3 and 'All Grain' eggs derived from batteries ... In this manner, we are able to offer our customers fair pricing and the ability to make a personal choice when selecting and purchasing their product."



Only 4% of all eggs consumed monthly in South Africa come from hens on free-range. Consumers need to help supermarkets make the transition to free-range only, by encouraging friends and family to buy free range eggs. There are still 17 400 000 hens confined in battery cages in SA.

To Do!

Tell friends and family to set battery hens free with their purchasing power.

Marks and Spencer in the UK no longer stocks obese broiler chickens

Marks and Spencer, the UK supermarket chain that was the first in the world to ban battery eggs from its shelves, has done it again! Now, M&S no longer stocks obese broiler chickens. Instead, M&S stocks a 'new-style' chicken that grows more slowly and is therefore not plagued by leg and heart problems and has a more natural shape. The new slow-growing breed of meat chicken is being offered by Lloyd Maunder and will be sold under the RSPCA Freedom Food labeling scheme.

Stunning Advice

Deans Foods, one of the largest processors of end-of-lay hens in the UK, has taken a major step forward in animal welfare by becoming the first plant in the world to introduce controlled atmosphere stunning at its abattoir in Lincolnshire. The plant processes more than 7000 birds per hour and has opted for the Nitrogen/Argon atmosphere stunning system. This means the hens do not have to be hung up on a conveyor belt for slaughter while still fully conscious. Commenting on the Controlled Atmosphere Stunning system, Mark Gaskin, Divisional Director of Deans Foods, said:

"We are very impressed with the improved staff working conditions and the dramatic change in meat quality. We aimed for a certain level, but the actual results have far exceeded our expectations. Without a doubt the single most important factor to us is that it is the most welfare friendly system of stunning poultry available. Terry Fowler, a Deans Foods plant manager, said "The introduction of Controlled Atmosphere Stunning has helped our ability to control staff welfare and makes working overtime and weekends far more acceptable to them."

Culture Without Cruelty

Say 'NO' to blood sports in the name of 'Culture'

Torturing animals in the name of 'culture' is under the spotlight all over the world.

Barcelona, for example, one of Spain's most culturally rich cities, recently declared itself an anti-bullfighting city after a year-long **Culture Without Cruelty** campaign in which 250 000 signatures were collected to stop bull-fighting. Rejoicing in the triumph of the ban in March this year, Carmen Mendez, President of Asociacion Defensa Derechos Animal (ADDA), said: "Barcelona has proved itself to be a modern, enlightened city that isn't afraid to turn its back on bullfighting."

In addition, Scotland also recently banned hunting with dogs, including fox hunting, mink hunting and hare hunting; Northern Ireland has banned hare-coursing.

In **South Africa**, each year, a bull is tortured to death at the Zulu nation's **First Fruit Festival**. The bull's agony includes having his penis tied in a knot, dirt stuffed down his throat and his eyes gouged out. In terms of Zulu culture, the bull has to be killed with the bare hands of young Zulu men.



Photo courtesy WSPA

Banned in Barcelona

In a registered letter, dated 18th May 2004, to King Goodwill Zwelithini at his private residence at Nongoma in Kwa Zulu Natal, Editor of *Animal Voice*, Louise van der Merwe asked the king please to consider relegating this cultural ceremony to history. Louise suggested that the ceremony was out of place in a country that is fighting an epidemic of violence in all its forms. "Moreover," she said, "our society no longer requires men to prove their manhood through brute physical strength."

Maureen Vida, the SPCA PRO in Pietermaritzburg, said she believes that "the moral progress of a nation can be seriously hampered by clinging to outdated customs and traditions".

"Every time the First Fruit Festival takes place we are shocked and sickened by the immense and needless suffering of the bull. But our outcry is quickly squashed at the mention of the words 'culture' and 'traditional customs'. While tolerance of other people's beliefs is the mark of democracy, the cruel slaughter of animals, slow and painful and terrifying to them, can no longer be tolerated," she said.

Animal Voice believes that the killing of the bull at the First Fruit Ceremony is demeaning and dehumanizing of the South African people as a whole and that 'culture' can never be an excuse for cruelty. Please see the postcard petition inside and send it off as soon as possible.

To find out more about the torture of animals around the world, under the guise of culture, visit www.faace.co.uk

To Do!

Please find the postcard addressed to Prince Zulu requesting him to help relegate the killing of the bull at the First Fruit Festival to history and send it off as soon as possible.

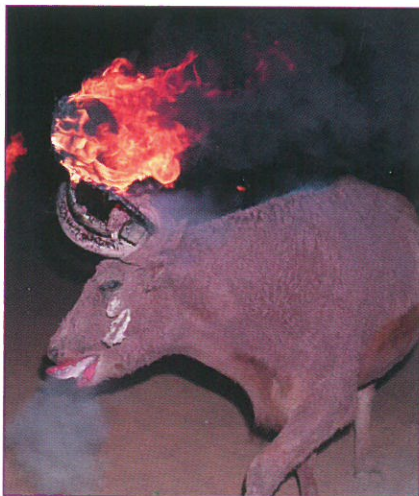


Photo courtesy Fight Against Animal Cruelty in Europe

Cruelty or Culture in Europe?

Brutalising animals linked to domestic violence

Shocking statistics released by the Medical Research Council of South Africa in June 2004, reveal that on average four women are killed by their lovers every day. Dr Naeema Abrahams, Specialist Scientist in the MRC Gender and Health Group, said "South Africa has the highest rate of intimate femicide of any country in the world where it has been studied." For the 'link' between animal cruelty and human violence, see insert.



Photo courtesy Fight Against Animal Cruelty in Europe

Cruelty or Culture in Europe?

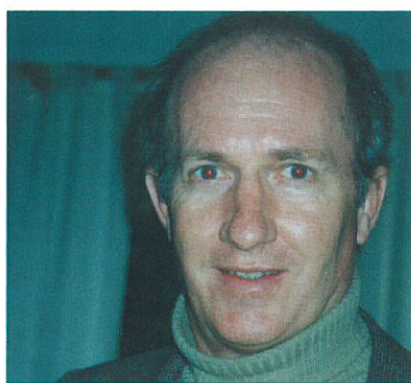
As Taxpayers, ordinary people have unknowingly helped fund the capture of baboons for vivisection for 25 years

Yet our right to know what exactly happens to these baboons is being kept SECRET!

A documentary aired on KykNET's *Spits* programme on 10 August this year revealed that there are some 50 to 60 wild-caught baboons being held at the Medical Research Council's animal holding facility at Delft, outside Cape Town.

Award-winning investigative journalist, Johan Claasen, was commissioned by Bateleur Entertainment to produce a documentary on the MRC's animal facility at Delft. However, as is clearly seen on the broadcast footage, his attempts were blocked at every turn. At one point, Johan and his team were even locked into the facility and only on the advice of Kyknet's lawyer, did the Delft personnel agree to open the gates for them again.

"There's something going on there and they don't want the public to know about it," Johan told *Animal Voice*. "The crux of the matter is that whatever they are



Award-winning journalist Johan Claasen doing with the baboons at Delft, is coming from the tax-payer's pocket because the bulk of what is happening there is financed by the Department of Health. As tax-payers we have the right to know. Our Government is committed to transparency. Yet, we were fobbed off with threats and denials at every turn even though we had tried hard to make prior arrangements to be there."

Johan says it is suspected that the baboons are infected with HIV. "It is well-known that the South African Aids Vaccine Initiative is being sponsored by the MRC and the Department of Health and it is possible that the baboons, who are actually normally immune to HIV, are being used for this. If so, what's the big secret?"

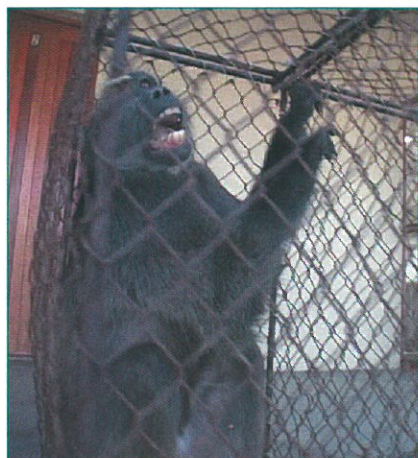
"Apart from the baboons being held at Delft, there is also a breeding colony of more than 80 Rhesus monkeys imported from the East," Johan said. He added that the cages were small and the animals were fearful.

"I feel uncomfortable when I see a budgie in a cage and a dog on a short chain. But to see an animal as vigorous and volatile as a baboon in a small cage, really turns my stomach. Those baboons were caught in the wild and they were healthy. But we've captured them for research; we violate their bodies without batting an eyelid. It's meant to be for human benefit but, as is clearly seen in the documentary, there's no guarantee these experiments will achieve anything beneficial for humans," he said.

"I'd like to say: 'Play Open Cards with us, MRC', says Johan. "We need some answers. What we got was hands in front of our lenses, threats to destroy the crew's camera and denials. Then we were locked into the premises and had to phone our lawyers before they would let us out."

Retired surgeon looks back on 30 years of vivisection

In the *Spits* programme, retired research scientist Dr Koos Smit, who once experimented extensively on baboons at the Wits Medical School in Johannesburg for liver and kidney transplant purposes, was asked by presenter Theunis Nel how he felt about research on baboons. Dr Smit replied that in retrospect, after nearly three decades of research and many publications, he did not think that the research had been "of much use to humans".



Captured for research

Photo courtesy of Spits programme

40 primates captured annually along the Garden Route for vivisection

The capture of baboons and vervet monkeys along the Garden Route for vivisection laboratories has been exposed.

Participants in this trade that was conducted secretly under the noses of Garden Route residents for at least 25 years, included George businessman Mr Appie Viviers, the MRC and Cape Nature Conservation. It is now known that Mr Viviers:

- * captured the baboons and monkeys regardless of age and sex
- * received R300 per primate from the Medical Research Council, Cape Town
- * captured 40 primates a year as this was the requirement of the MRC
- * carried out this work for 25 years

That Cape Nature Conservation:

- * authorized the capture of the primates
- * issued permits by fax to Mr Viviers on demand

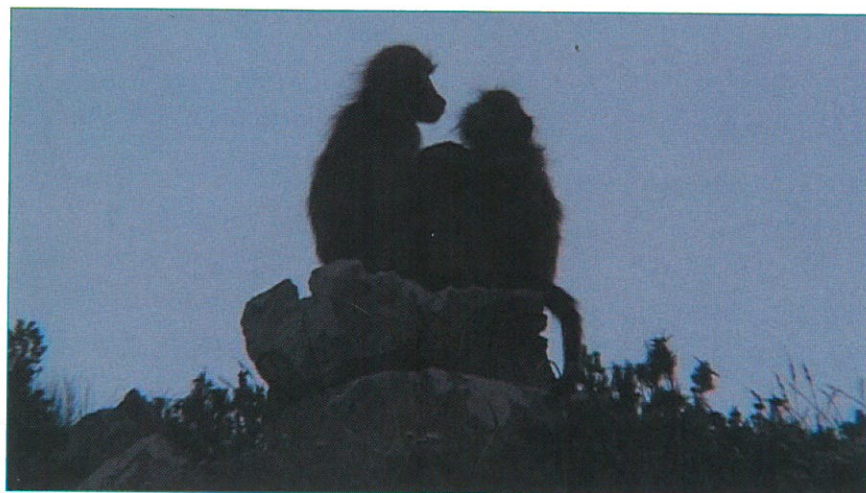


Photo courtesy Spiis programme

Baboons are wrenched from their families and, perfectly legally, can be subjected to painful, distressful or lingering deaths.

- * never inspected the facility in George where the primates were held before being transported to Delft
- * did not inspect the way in which the animals were transported to Delft.

The NSPCA has called for a moratorium on the capture of wild baboons and has asked the MRC to develop a policy on the use of primates in research.



At the time that this warehouse in George was discovered in 2003, there were 10 baboons in these cages including a mother and infant, and four monkeys. There was no water provided. All were transported to the MRC for experimentation.



BWC's Beryl Scott says the new code for lab animals does not protect them from painful deaths

The draft SA National Standard for the Care and Use of Experimental Animals that is currently being developed by Standards South Africa, is flawed, says Beauty Without Cruelty's Beryl Scott. "In its present draft form it will effectively allow animals used as models of disease, or in toxicological studies, to suffer painful, distressful or lingering deaths, if no other experimental end-point is feasible. One cannot inflict suffering on other sentient beings, for the benefit of one's own species and claim to be ethically motivated," said Beryl.

To Do!

Please fill out the postcard petition insert addressed to Professor Pick at the MRC.

The Times are Changing

Simple neglect of pets soon to be an offence in UK

People who neglect their pets are to be fined R240 000 or a year's imprisonment in UK. In the biggest overhaul of animal welfare laws in almost a century, the British government has announced that 'a duty of care' is included in its new draft Animal Welfare Bill. Under current UK legislation, an animal has to actually suffer before the law can offer support or protection. Under the new Bill, owners would be legally responsible for their animals' welfare and would face prosecution simply for neglect. Asked for comment, June Woodman, Chairman of the Animal Welfare Society of South Africa, said: "If you are exposed on a daily basis, as I am, to the horrific suffering

of animals, then you'll know we need a quick fix here and now. We need to have a national sterilisation drive and urgent legislation to knock out backyard breeding which is perhaps the major cause of all the horror. Animals are so easy to replace that they have no value."

To Do!

Go to www.animalsentience.com to read about the dog who has a vocabulary of 200 words, ducks who have regional accents, chimps who discovered medicines and sheep who have been proven to like smiling faces. **Plus lots more.**

Watershed International Conference on Animal Sentience

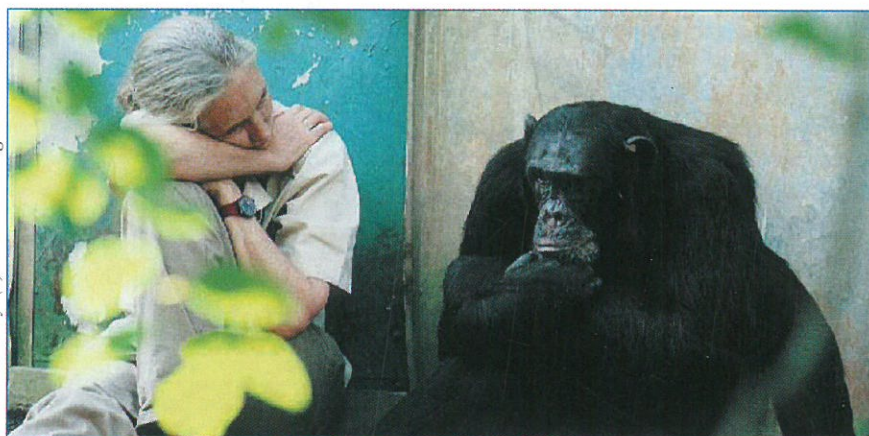


Photo courtesy (c) Michael Nengebauer

An International Conference on Animal Sentience will take place in London on 17 and 18 March 2005. Hosted by Compassion in World Farming (UK), the conference is expected to become a watershed between the old world perception of animals as things and property, and the emerging new world acknowledgement of animals as deeply sentient beings.

Entitled 'From Darwin to Dawkins: the Science and Implications of Animal

Dr Goodall and friend

Sentience', the conference will be addressed by leading experts in the field of animal sentience as well as key global policy-makers and ethicists. Dr Jane Goodall who accepted the position of United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2002, is the keynote speaker.

Visit the website for conference details: www.ciwf.org/conference2005 or e-mail: ciwfevents@eventbookings.com

Austria is forging ahead for animals

In May 2004, the Austrian Parliament voted unanimously

- + for a ban on battery farming
- + for the inclusion of animals in the Austrian Constitution (Alongside human rights, the new Constitution will read: The state protects the life and well-being of animals in its responsibility for them as fellows of mankind)
- + for the appointment of an animal solicitor in each of Austria's nine provinces, with the power to litigate against farmers breaking the law
- + for a government report to be issued every alternate year on progress in animal protection and the establishment of "animal friendly" alternatives to factory farming.

Goldfish banned from bowls

Monza, best known for its Formula 1 Grand Prix, has become the first place in Italy to ban pet owners from keeping their goldfish in bowls.

Town Council official, Giampietro Mosca explained: "This story about the goldfish, which has gone around Italy, seems a little irrelevant and people have mocked it a bit, but it has a very specific educational sense, especially for the little ones. The ruling is intended to transmit a message about the correct treatment of domestic animals. We don't want to see animals treated like objects any longer."