

MILLENNIUM ISSUE

Petition Update

South Africans rally to change the legal status of non-humans

More than 51 000 South Africans so far have signed our Petition to have animals legally reclassified as 'Sentient Beings'. A huge THANK YOU to every single person who has dedicated so much time and effort to collecting signatures.

The response has been wonderful. Until we launched this Petition, most people had no idea that animals are legally regarded as 'moveable property' or 'chattel' — just like slaves used to be legally regarded as 'chattel', just like a piece of furniture is chattel. In fact, many people have said they're 'flabbergasted' to think that, at the year 2000, such an archaic perception of animals can still be on our statute books. Ordinary people have long since known that animals have a robust ability to enjoy life as well as an ability to suffer, equal to that of mankind. It's time the law caught up with reality.

Giving animals their rightful legal

status as 'sentient beings' literally meaning that they can 'feel' and 'perceive', unlike inanimate objects such as furniture, is an absolute prerequisite to getting meaningful changes made in existing animal legislation and regulations.



BWC Managing Trustee Beryl Scott with just a fraction of the Petitions which have poured into BWC's office.

Only once we've changed their legal status, can we really get a better deal for non-human South Africans. Please may we ask you for one last effort for the Petition. BWC has extended the deadline of the Petition to December 31 1999. Please put the enclosed petition into doctors' or dentists' waiting rooms, pin it up at your local café or anywhere else you think it likely to collect signatures. Thank you again. Without the wonderful support which we have received, we would be powerless to initiate change.

Best wishes,



Beryl Scott
Managing Trustee
Beauty Without Cruelty

Educating for Peace

Expert on link between animal cruelty and human violence to visit SA

American **Phil Arkow**, world renowned expert on the link between animal cruelty and human violence, is to arrive in South Africa on February 14 for a week-long national lecture/seminar/workshop tour, at the invitation of **Animal Voice**.

Chairman of the Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Project of the Latham Foundation in the USA, Phil Arkow recently co-authored the definitive text book on how human violence almost always has its roots in animal cruelty. Called "Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse: Linking the Circles of Compassion for Prevention and Intervention", the book is the culmination of 26 years of research, conducted in close collaboration with the FBI.

Says Arkow: "Animal abuse does not occur in a vacuum."

Says **Animal Voice** Founder, **Louise van der Merwe**: "We are deeply indebted and profoundly grateful to the **Matthew Eyton Animal Welfare Trust** in the UK for enabling us to extend an invitation to Phil Arkow. He has accepted

and we look forward to his visit in February. His workshops will be conducted under the slogans: 'All in the Family: Animal Abuse as a Human Welfare Concern' and 'Humane Education: Hope for the Future'. He will be speaking at venues in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.



Louise collecting signatures to ban batteries

Animal Voice will launch a new publication called "The Humane Educator" in the new year which will be aimed specifically at schools and educators and which will publish up-to-date information, ideas and interviews

on humane education. Says Louise: "In this way we will continue Phil Arkow's work here, helping as best we can, to provide our children with a future that is worth living."

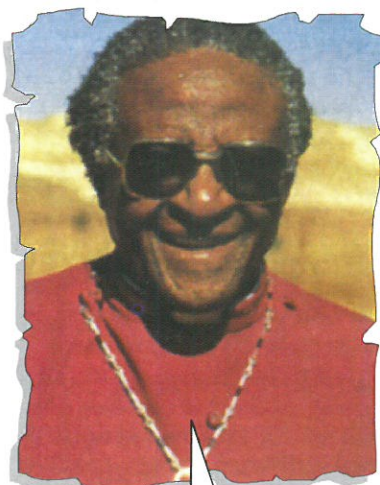
Anyone interested in attending the workshops should contact Louise. See back page for communication details.

"I am sometimes asked, 'why do you spend so much of your time and money in talking about kindness to animals, when there is so much cruelty to men?' and I answer, 'I am working at the roots.' Every humane publication, every lecture, every step, in doing or teaching kindness to them (animals), is a step to prevent crime, a step in promoting growth of those qualities of heart which will elevate human souls.. and prepare the way for the coming of peace on earth and good will to men."

George Angell,
president of the
Massachusetts SPCA, 1899.



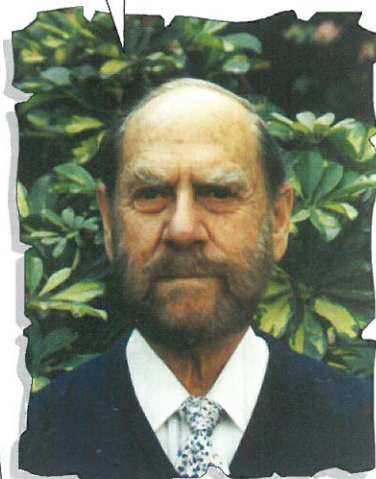
As we watch the dawn of the year 2000, Compass



"It is out of our doctrine of Creation that we would be eager to support your efforts to eliminate cruelty to God's creatures. God bless you in your endeavours."
Archbishop Desmond Tutu

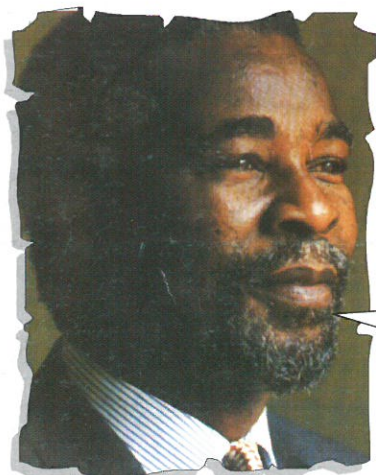


**Dr Mike Levien,
Chairman of the Live Stock
Animal Welfare Association:**
*"Does ritual slaughter not
belong to yesteryear? Custom
and tradition is not an excuse
for cruelty."*



*"There is considerable
evidence of how the experience
of caring for an animal has taught
deprived children to love others
and themselves. We should
extrapolate from this to recognise
that our maltreatment of animals
reflects negatively on our ability to
treat each other well, and to fulfill
our development as decent, caring
individuals."*

**Professor Kader Asmal,
Minister of Education**



*"Spread the
gospel of
treating animals
well."*
**President
Thabo Mbeki**



*"Although the overwhelming majority of
humanity live in deplorable conditions and
human rights violations are rampant in much
of the world, it would be a mistake to say that
moral recognition ought not to be extended to
animals until we have alleviated human
suffering and ensured universal respect for
human rights... One set of evils cannot justify
the perpetuation of another set. We must
desist from injustice on all fronts."*

**Dr David Benatar, Department of Philosophy,
University of Cape Town.**

**Alderman
Eulalie Stott:**

*"It is the fundamental right of any creature
to be able to move. What about the pigs and hens
and calves who are subjected to lives of almost
total immobility? How can we justify our
selective morality?"*



*"Using an animal and infecting it
with a disease and then trying to cure
it, can tell us nothing about how
treatments will work in human
populations. There is simply no
guarantee that a treatment that
works in animals will also work in
humans."* — **Dr Jimmy Volmink,
director of the Medical Research
Council's Cochrane Centre for evidence-
based research in Parow**

*"What right do
we have to experiment
upon them in the name
of medicine, feeding the egos
and career aspirations of
researchers? ...
Just as we needed to express on
behalf of humans their rights, we
need a bill of rights so that
chimpanzees and other apes might
live in dignity and freedom. So that
humans can regain some dignity."*
 — **Professor Peter Gray, Department of
Chemical
Pathology at Wits University and
South African representative
of the Jane Goodall
Institute**

on/Animal Voice looks back on a decade to see who s



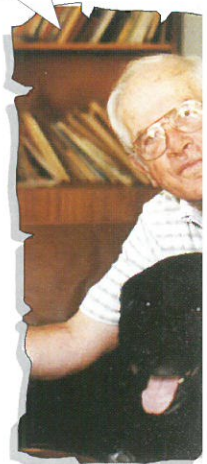
"Now, more than ever, we need to be especially active in caring for the environment. We need to understand our own responsibility, as individuals and as a company, to work in harmony with the environment and this includes the well-being of animals."

Tom McLaughlin, who is spearheading the Woolworths Enviro Group



"We are spiritually depleted by our cruelty to animals."

Father Tom Nicholson, Catholic Church, Plumstead



"We don't want cruelty in the name of the poor... As poor as we are, we love our animals and a growing number of men and women here in Khayelitsha feel very strongly about the humane treatment of animals. The farmers sell their chickens, pigs live to poor communities like us. I must say it takes my whole appetite for meat away when I see the way they suffer. It is an insult to assume that because we are poor we have no heart."

Gwen Dumo, Community Health Worker, Khayelitsha.

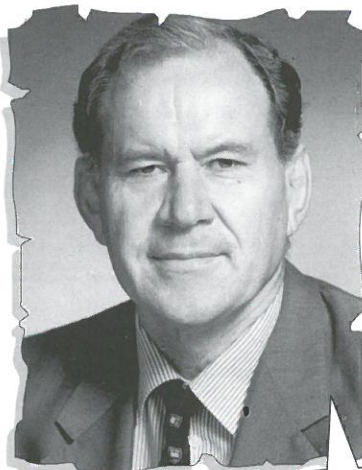


Roz de Muynk, head of Edumedia, distributors of learning aids for the Department of Education: *"Children are exposed to so much unkindness and violence that there has to be a re-education of children to revere life, especially in this country after the traumatic events of our past. Children need to be taught tenderness towards every living thing whether it's a tree, animal or another person."*

"About the campaign the time I thought it started the animal rights ardently"

The link is there. Someone who is cruel and violent to animals will also be so to people. If children were exposed to less violence whether to animals or humans, the nation's mental health would be much improved."

Dr Sean Kaliski, head of forensic psychiatry at Valkenberg Hospital, Cape Town.



"I wholeheartedly agree with you that the drive to greater efficiencies in farming and food production must take place within the boundaries of normal, decent human behaviour. This obviously includes a respect for the quality of life of farm animals... Companies must balance profits against ethics

"We have had the liberation struggle for human beings. Who knows? The one for the animals may be about to begin."

Clem Sunter

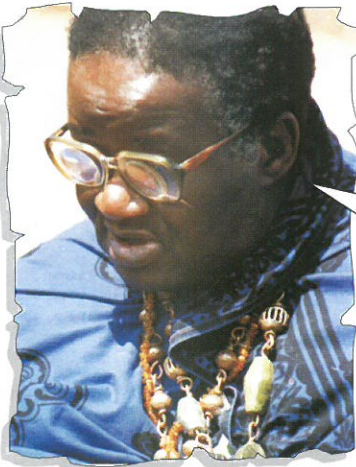
"Both myself and my party are fully committed to pursuing vigorously the rights of animals in the new South Africa. We are not prepared to accept any situation in which animals are forced to submit to cruel practices."

Mr Errol Moorcroft, DP Spokesperson for the Environment, formerly for Agriculture.

"When we say that murderers and rapists behave like animals, we insult the animals. The only motive for a predator to kill is hunger... Nor do animals rape each other. But what happens all too often is that humans rape animals." **Well-known Afrikaans academic and author, Professor Lina Spies.**

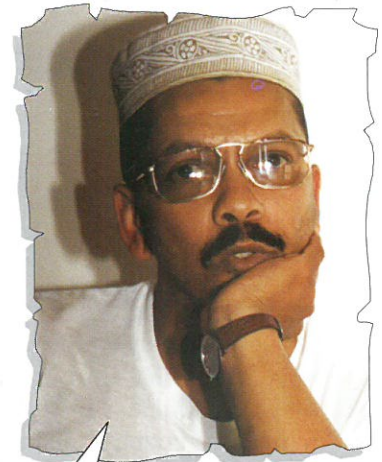


aid what about animal rights and human wrongs....



"One hears the strange belief that man is superior to all other living things in Earth, and that he was especially created to be overlord and custodian of all things, animate or inanimate.... Until these attitudes are combated and erased from the human mind, Westernized human beings will be a danger to all earthly life, including themselves... We must stop immediately regarding ourselves as superior and special..." Credo Mutwa, great African father, seer, sage, sangoma, inyanga, healer, psychic and storyteller

"The thought of their sufferings penetrates with horror and dismay into my soul ... " Composer Richard Wagner spoke for us all when he uttered these words about animal suffering in 1879.



at 10 years ago I heard about the gainst battery farming of chickens. At ht the campaign was a little eccentric. But ll rolling for me. I began reading books on nd they affected me tremendously. Today I support the need for animal rights."

- Author Janie Oosthuysen.

"It requires an enormous leap of imagination to even begin to think of animals as enjoying something as fundamental as the right to life. But then again, didn't it require a massive leap of imagination on the part of slave owners in the 17th and 18th centuries to come to terms with the fact that slaves were actually human beings? Even today, in the Middle East and in countries like

India and Pakistan, it requires a leap of imagination to realize that women exist in their own right, and are not mere appendages to men. Why can't we take the same position vis-à-vis animals?

Despite the enormity of this leap of imagination, justice for animals is still a struggle that must be undertaken...

It is important to fight for what is ours, but integrity demands that we also give up what is not ours. If we can survive on a diet, for instance, which does not harm other living species, why not modify our diet?" Former

UDF leader and eminent Moslem theologian, Dr Farid Esack, Chairperson of the Programme Committee of the Parliament of the World's Religions.



"With regard to the new year and the new millennium, it is my solemn prayer that all Christians, together with people from other faiths, will address this very important issue of treating animals with the respect that they deserve and that they will put this matter on the very top of their agendas. Treating animals with respect has little to do with human kindness, but it has everything to do with strict justice demanded by God Himself. This is what He asks of us. When man begins to respect the animals around him, only then can he begin to know and respect himself. Only when man frees himself from this violent attitude towards animals can he begin to live truly as a liberated being."

Ds Chris Jones, dominee at the Ceres-Vallei NG Church, who has a doctorate in human and animal rights.

May history look back on the time in which we live now, as the turning point for the animals, the beginning of an era when at last, mankind extended ethical and moral consideration to all life.



"Baboons have all the human emotions. Female baboons are incredibly maternal. It is simply heartbreaking to think of these animals being separated from their families like this and their babies being taken from them. It is unbearable to think it is going on." - Pat O'Neill who has run a sanctuary near Somerset West for 14 years for infant baboons whose mothers have been shot by farmers or captured for research.

THIS IS THE SAME HEN TRUE OR FALSE?



TRUE! The battery cage system routinely reduces hens to this pitiful state.

Great Liberationists of the 20th Century

**RUTH HARRISON, PETER ROBERTS
& CLARE DRUCE....**

**among those brave Britons who led the
fight against the battery cage for all of
30 years and won!**

*The EU Parliament's
ban on battery cages for
laying hens, in June this
year, is seen as the single
greatest triumph for
animal welfare so far.*

Ruth Harrison is close to 80 years old now, but more than three decades ago, this brave British woman dared to challenge the prevailing wisdom of her time by suggesting that agriculture had gone berserk in its attempts to turn animals into machines.

Her book, **Animal Machines**, published in 1964, was written at a time when the post-World War II world had already embarked, with religious fervour, on its obsessive quest for cheap food and maximum profits. The industrial revolution, automation and technology had finally hit the countryside too. Removed from public view and packed into vast sheds, animals became "units of production" to be "grown" and "harvested". Their welfare was measured in terms of "performance".

One of the most glaring of cruelties was the battery cage for laying hens. Led by former dairy farmer, **Peter Roberts**, **Compassion in World Farming** soon opened its doors, as did **Chickens' Lib** (now **Farm Animal Welfare Network**), founded by **Clare Druce**. The fight was on. This year, those campaigners who dedicated so much of their lives to fighting the nightmare world of battery cages, experienced the sweet taste of victory. What they had known intuitively, had, at last, been proven. Battery cages for laying hens are cruel and inhumane. Finally the European Parliament succumbed and, on June 15, 1999, it announced the total abolition of traditional battery cages. There will be a 12-year phase-out period.

Said **Peter Roberts** recently: "Our start was traumatic indeed, with ridicule heaped on us from all sides. It came from farmers, vets and not least from the Ministry of Agriculture. But there is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come. *Compassion in World Farming* was, and is, such an idea... *Compassion* involves a change in consciousness, so that we come to see animals as individuals, each developing its own character, rather than as herds or flocks."

Commented **Clare Druce**, "Given the massive size of the egg industry and the strength of the forces lined up against the welfare movement, the ban represents a wonderful victory for compassion."



*Ruth Harrison who
received an OBE
for her
contribution to
animal welfare.*



*Clare Druce,
founder of
Chickens' Lib*



*Peter Roberts,
founder of
Compassion in
World Farming.*



▲ Moments after the EU ban on battery cages in June this year... UK Agriculture Minister Nick Brown MP (right) brings the good news of the ban to Philip Lymbery, one of *Compassion in World Farming's* key campaigners. CIWF is recognised as having been instrumental in brokering the ban. Says Philip Lymbery: "This monumental decision marks perhaps the greatest day so far for animal welfare in Europe... The battery cage is the oldest and perhaps cruellest of the factory farm systems."

Unlike their British and European counterparts, there is still no light at the end of the long, dark tunnel for South Africa's 15 million laying hens which remain incarcerated in batteries across the country. Yet, for every dozen-a-week family which switches to free-range eggs, two more hens go onto "range" instead of into the battery. Only you, the consumer, can buy laying hens their freedom.

British author pleads for end to "Animal Apartheid"

British author **Audrey Eyton** who worked in South Africa as a journalist during the Soweto uprising, in the 70's, comments:

"Working on a newspaper in South Africa in 1976, I looked across the sea to Nelson Mandela's prison island, thought of his 'army', just black school children throwing stones against the heavily armed might of white forces, and wept at the hopelessness of it all. When I came home I gradually became involved in fighting 'animal apartheid', the system in which we consign animals to a horrific life of hard slatted floors and close confinement between cage or concrete walls... When South Africa's apartheid system was still in place, I heard a lecture by Father Trevor Huddleston which ended movingly with this plea: 'I'm an old man. Please help fight apartheid. I so long to see the end of this terrible system in my own lifetime.' I am getting on myself now. I often think of Father Huddleston and sometimes I dare to hope that I will see the end of apartheid for animals in my own lifetime. Like him, I say: Please help."





On the eve of the Year 2000, we look back at the milestones we have passed in the long walk leading towards justice for animals.

- Animals are legally recognised as 'sentient beings' in the EU.
- Sow stalls: banned in the UK. Still legal in SA.
- Tethers for breeding pigs: banned in South Africa and UK.
- 1000 UK pig farms agree to ban the farrowing crate for pigs to comply with the RSPCA's "Freedom Foods" quality assurance scheme. Farrowing crates still legal in SA.
- Veal crates: banned in the UK. Still legal in SA.
- Traditional battery cages: banned in the EU with a 12-year phase-out period. Still legal in SA.
- Legislatures across the USA upgrade animal cruelty crimes from "misdemeanors" to "felonies" and animal law becomes a new branch of legal study in that country. Says one such lawyer: "My commitment is that I don't eat my clients."
- Harvard Law School offers an animal rights law course for the first time.
- Peter Singer, father of the animal rights movement, is appointed to the prestigious post of De Camp Professor at Princeton University's Centre for Human Values, USA.
- South Africa's own world acclaimed novelist and literary critic, J.M. Coetzee, writes *The Lives of Animals*, a novel which sympathetically examines the rights of animals. The book is published by The University Center for Human Values at Princeton University.
- Strenuous lobbying begins at the millennium round of the World Trade Organisation in Seattle, for a reform of WTO Free Trade rules so that countries which have achieved higher welfare standards for animals, can prevent the importation of competing products produced by countries with lower welfare standards.



Dogs in transit to slaughter in Hanoi. We are outraged at this abomination yet the fears and suffering of cattle, pigs, sheep, calves, lambs and poultry, are no different from those of dogs and cats. Dog meat is widely eaten in the East.

Photo: courtesy Animals' Angels, Germany.

- Swaziland's King Mswati III reminds all outlets selling pellet guns, pellets and gintraps, that all birds are 'royal game' in Swaziland and that it is a non-bailable offence to hunt, kill or molest them.
- Leghold or gin traps are banned in 89 countries around the world. South Africa is not one of them.
- Live plucking of ostriches before slaughter in SA is banned.
- Great Britain bans the testing of cosmetics (including ingredients), alcohol and tobacco on living animals. Nevertheless, 2 659 662 scientific procedures were carried out on living animals in that country in 1998. No figure is available for SA where transparency and accountability laws for vivisection are non-existent.
- The Great Ape Project (GAP) whose mission is to attain a United Nations Declaration of Rights for the Great Apes, gains momentum in political arenas in both the USA and New Zealand. GAP reports that tens of thousands of signatures supporting GAP are pouring in from around the world. (Sign your name on: <http://host.envirolink.org/gap/gapdeonline.html>)
- Poland bans force-feeding of geese and ducks for the production of *pâté de foie gras*.
- The Indian Constitution provides

that 'the people of India have a moral obligation to prevent animal suffering.' The SA Constitution, despite being hailed as one of the most progressive in the world, remains devoid of consideration towards South Africa's non-humans.

BWC ADDRESS:

Office 206, Marshall Building
Pearce Street, Claremont 7799
P O Box 23321, Claremont 7735
TEL/FAX (021) 671 4583
or TEL (021) 674 0465
e-mail: beautywc@netactive.co.za

Beryl Scott Managing Trustee

OTHER SOUTH AFRICAN TRUSTEES
Gill Simpson, Anne van Vliet, Sally Lanham.

THIS PUBLICATION is
researched, written & edited by:

Louise van der Merwe

Suite 191, Postnet, Private Bag X29,
Somerset West 7129
TEL/FAX (021) 852 4402
e-mail: avoice@yebo.co.za
Website:

www.animals.co.za/orgs/bwc/compassion/

BWC JOHANNESBURG

Anne van Vliet
P O Box 70528, Bryanston 2021
Tel: (011) 708 1556

BWC PIETERMARITZBURG

Maureen Vida
21 Steele Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201
Tel: (0331) 61113