



Beauty Without Cruelty

## Defending Animal Rights NEWSLETTER MAY 2009

Hello fellow animal rights defenders

It has been a busy time at the Beauty Without Cruelty camp. We have been lucky enough to have media coverage in Cape Town newspapers on issues such as Tygerberg Zoo, World Day for Lab Animals, Earth Day and recently on the issue of animals in circuses, while in Johannesburg extensive media coverage was enjoyed for WDLA., including Television.

**World Day for Animals in Laboratories** was very well supported and the protests were seen by many Johannesburgers on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. A group of protesters waving posters left Sandton on board a double-decker bus that was adorned with many banners decrying the vivisection industry. The bus made its way to Wits. University where some 60 people were gathered on the pavements and steps outside the university, opposite Braamfontein's Eland Statue.

Here the bus stopped to pick up more protesters and continued its journey into town, travelling over the iconic Nelson Mandela Bridge and into Newtown. There were plenty of members of the public on the streets who watched and listened, as they were addressed via loudspeaker in several languages.

Meanwhile, back at the street protest the media were interviewing several members of the various animal organisations whose members were out in force supporting WDLA. There was subsequent coverage of the event in newspapers and on radio, which helped to spread the message even further.



To mark United Nations recognised World Day for Laboratory Animals Beauty without Cruelty South Africa released their report on vivisection, 'A South African State of the Nation - Global Lessons and Future Strategies', e-copies of which are available, at no charge, through [chairperson@bwcsa.co.za](mailto:chairperson@bwcsa.co.za). This work delves into some of the atrocities inflicted on experimental animals and focuses on the recurring theme that the animal model, use in medical (or any other) research, is ineffective, inhumane and unnecessary. The report is an up to date investigation of the vivisection industry in South Africa and highlights the lack of transparency that permeates the hidden world of laboratory animals. There are currently no statistics available as to how many millions animals are used in experimentation in South Africa, or for what purpose, as this is deemed to be private information. On the contrary, the public and interested parties is not being supplied with the information to which they are rightfully entitled by virtue of tax based funding of these procedures.

**CAPE TOWN WDLA PROTEST** From all over the Cape, including 5 month Matteo Nel on his first protest, concerned members of the public were on the bus that drove through Cape Town, and with the use of a PA system, the public was informed and given time to read and absorb the message that animal experiments are dangerous for people and deadly for animals. We had good exposure on two local radio stations during the week and on the day of the protest itself, Friday 24th April, as well as coverage in one of the large weekend papers.



**THE USE OF ANIMALS FOR ENTERTAINMENT;** McLaren's Circus has animals, camels for parading in the ring and two lion cubs for petting and therefore a joint venture with Capetonians Against Animal Abuse resulted in a No Circus Animals protest on a seriously stormy day on Saturday 16th May 2009, from 11am to 1pm. Circus animals spend their lives in totally unnatural circumstances, deprived of every normal behaviour.

We had a great turnout of well over 30 (people from as far as Hout Bay and Southern Suburbs). The Animal Anti-Cruelty League, Drakenstein Lion Parl, CAAA and BWC were represented. We got soaked, some posters got soaked, caps blew off, we lost grip on the banner, the circus owner just lost it, and a good, (wet, cold) time was had by all! The 3pm circus show was cancelled.

One of the circuses future ventures chose to cancel having the circus at their grounds after several letters regarding the use of animals in entertainment and we applaud Paarl Mall for their compassionate stance in this regard. This campaign will continue as much as possible.



**SPEAKING EVENT** Sunday 17th May 2009 saw Beauty without Cruelty presenting a talk, with slide show, on the link between human (women's) rights and animal rights at UCT, at the Muslim Student Association / Muslim Hands Gaza fundraiser, to get funding for medical supplies for the war ravaged folks. This ladies-only event was held in the afternoon in the beautiful Jameson's Hall and attended by almost 200 women. Everyone received BWC brochures and cosmetic guides and the talk was favourably received—we have been asked if we could be called on in future!



**TYGERBERG ZOO** Our next issue is that of Tygerberg zoo, already under the eye of the SPCA in 2007. This is clearly not an educational or kind sanctuary; there is insufficient information on the inhabitants on the small unroofed cages, if any at all, and having the animals live in totally unnatural surroundings affects their well being and behaviour.

For example the gibbons are extremely acrobatic and agile. They spend most of their life in the trees. They move by swinging from branches and vines and have been known to leap over 9 m in a single jump. They clearly have insufficient space and vines or branches on which to swing properly, which, under normal circumstances forms a large part of their day. The home range of the Brown Bear can be up to 2000 sq kms and yet they are encaged in a barren cement pit, their neighbours being the White Lions next door. This in itself would be a stress factor.

There is a clear lack of "environmental enrichment". The cages for the most part are barren and the animals are clearly bored which results in behavioural problems, of which the repetitive pacing of some animals is a symptom. There are single animals to be found, when they are in fact highly social. Isolation, or solitary confinement, as we know, can result in, amongst other things, depression, despair, anxiety, rage, as well as a weakening of the immune system and aggressive behaviour.

Some of the peacocks are caged (with no signage as to indicate their species, habitat, feeding habits, social system, life span etc) while others roam free. There is no indication as to why this should be so.

While some animals or birds would appear to have a bigger cage that allows for some freedom of movement, others clearly have insufficient. All the water seen was stagnant and dirty and while crocodiles, for example, will be happy in brack water, stagnant water is an entirely different issue.

A tour bus of school children was visiting, who were allowed to tease the lone chimp. It is bad enough that the teachers, who should know better, did nothing, but the zoo staff we did see, said and did nothing. This is educational? Jeering and teasing a lone being, imprisoned for our pleasure? There was no clear or visible signage to indicate that feeding and teasing is disallowed, and in fact the very state in which the animals are forced to live almost ensures that we behave with no respect or empathy. In this instance there was signage indicating the name of this chimp and as there was only one name on the fence and one visible we must assume he is in isolation. Chimps are highly social and complex animals who suffer under isolation and confinement.

While the standard for animal welfare is that they be safe from predation, fed and housed, the emotional well-being of these animals forced to live out their entire lives in a state of incarceration by force is a moral and ethical requirement.

The only way this sad state of affairs will change is if the public vocalizes their dissatisfaction.

Photos and observations have been sent to various sources to see what can be done, and we look forward to favourable action in the near future.



**Beauty without Cruelty** celebrates 34 years of work defending animal rights in South Africa and acknowledges that much work remains in the fields of vivisection, animals as entertainment, factory farming, cosmetic testing and the exploitation of our wildlife.

Beryl Scott, chairperson of Beauty without Cruelty, is one of only eight people world wide to be recognised for her work in animal rights, having received the Award for Outstanding Service in Animal Welfare in 2005

## NEWS FROM ABROAD—BWC India

### Declaration of the Rights of Animals

*Whereas it is self evident that we share the earth with other creatures great and small,  
that many of these animals experience pleasure and pain,  
that these animals deserve our just treatment  
and that these animals are unable to speak for themselves*

*We do therefore declare that these animals  
have the right to live free from human exploitation, whether in the name of science or sport,  
exhibition or service, food or fashion;  
have the right to live in harmony with nature rather than according to human desires  
and have the right to live on a healthy plant.*

*The Declaration of Rights Of Animals was adopted and proclaimed by  
Beauty without Cruelty, Pune India, December 2008.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

The lovely gold leaf that we sometimes see in champagne, vodka, on cakes and used as decoration in on deserts in high end restaurants is made by placing small thin gold (or silver) strips between epidermises, the layers immediately beneath the skins of sheep or goats, or between layers of ox gut, and this is then hammered for up to 8 hours until the desired thinness of foil is acquired.

### LETTER FROM A VENUE SERVING FOIE GRAS and our response

To whom it may concern,

We have calculated that thus far to date, restaurants in Cape Town received postage from you to the value of R 35 000.00. This amount was spent on postage to "create awareness" as to your sentiments on the use of foie gras. As your postcards are not delivering information unknown to us, may we request that the postage spent on Ginja and Shoga Restaurants be donated to the SPCA. If you do still feel the need to deliver information to us, a hand-delivered letter, or even better still, a visit, will suffice. We would also like to request that this instruction is posted next to our name on your "Wall of Shame".

Kind regards  
Jaco de Jager  
General Manager GINJA & SHOgA Restaurants

#### Greetings Mr de Jager

I am in receipt of your mail and I thank you for taking the time to bring the issue of the postcards received to our attention.

May i make the following observations in response:

- despite previous requests to consider changing the menu, to date this is the first correspondence received from yourselves in this regard
- the general public have sent these postcards, not ourselves and therefore we have incurred no expense bar the printing of said cards, which people may or may not have filled out completely with their contact details
- it is disheartening that 'no new knowledge' has been disseminated to yourselves through this and therefore by your own acknowledgement, despite clear knowledge of the deliberate and intentional torture of these birds, as well as an obvious public unhappiness with your menu, the choice remains to continue serving Foie Gras regardless of the negative financial impact this may have, and probably has, had. While serving up a dish that is the result of known suffering you would have that we donate funds to an animal welfare agency which has publically stated their vehement opposition to Foie Gras due to inherent cruelty. The campaign against Foie Gras is not the to the exclusion of other abhorrent practices such as factory farming, elder abuse or AIDS, it simply defines the worst excesses of human greed and self indulgence of the few for fleeting taste, regardless who may suffer. Sadly, I see Mr Basset has included Foie Gras on the menu at the Vineyard also.

We will most certainly include your missive on the Wall of Shame as requested!

It would be most gratifying to hear that a menu change is on the cards, I see Foie Gras remains on the menu dated November 2008.

**An update on progress in other areas of concern will be available in the June newsletter.**