



A Sad Day for Animals

by Tanya O'Callaghan

November 6th marked a sad day for animals in Canada after Senators voted to send Bill C-10B back to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee – a move that essentially killed the legislation, which officially died on the order paper less than one week later, on November 12th, when Parliament prorogued. It is the third time in less than four years that the legislation to amend the animal cruelty provisions of the Criminal Code has died on the order paper.

CFHS, however, has resolved to continue its efforts to ensure the new government understands the importance of the amendments to



the animal cruelty laws, and represents the legislation once again. It is expected that the amendments to the animal cruelty laws

will be brought back before Parliament under Paul Martin in January.

A busy spring and fall

Since late May, Bill C-10B has bounced back and forth between the House of Commons and the

Senate, as Members of Parliament and Senators continued to disagree on key amendments to the Bill, proposed by the Senate.

The four amendments being debated referred to a change in the definition of animals to exclude all invertebrates; to remove the separate offense of killing an animal without lawful excuse and, instead, insert the words "unnecessary death" into the clause that addresses unnecessary pain and suffering; add a specific reference to the defence of "colour of right"; and add a new provision giving special treatment to Aboriginals to carry out traditional hunting, trapping or fishing practices according to Aboriginal or treaty rights as stated in the *Constitution Act*.

The House of Commons agreed to change the definition of animal, and to add a reference to "colour of right", noting that these changes were sufficient to alleviate concerns of those who opposed the Bill. MPs turned down the last two proposed amendments.

In a historical moment in early June, all five parties of the House of Commons and the rural caucus of the Liberal Party, representing some 75 industry associations,

threw their support behind Bill C-10B, and requested that the Senate do not insist on its last two amendments.



Despite this widespread support, the Senate continued to insist on its amendments through the fall, forcing the Bill back and forth between the two chambers.

Aboriginal amendment major obstacle

The fourth amendment, which proposes adding a specific reference to traditional Aboriginal hunting, trapping or fishing practices, was one of the major obstacles that prevented Bill C-10B from being adopted this fall.

In its final message to the Senate, the House of Commons warned

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Animal



Welfare
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A Doggone Crazy! way to avoid bites...

As stories of serious dog attacks continued to make headlines across Canada this summer, the CFHS renewed its commitment to reduce the number of dog bites in this country through a partnership with *Doggone Crazy!*



Doggone Crazy! is a board game designed to help children avoid dangerous dog bites, and to better understand canine behaviour. The game features full-colour photographs to teach kids about canine body language and to help them identify safe and dangerous situations involving dogs. The interactive game also includes multiple choice and true or false questions, plus "Simon Says" activities.

The game requires two to six players, and targets children ages four to 12 years old – although older kids and adults have also been enjoying the game. At least one player must have third grade reading skills to play.

Humane educators and teachers across Canada are already recognizing *Doggone Crazy!* as a valuable addition to their humane education programs, and dozens of shelters have already ordered the game.

A game for families

Doggone Crazy! is also becoming a popular family game. Parents are beginning to understand the risks of bites, and are looking for ways to teach their kids to be safe around strange dogs and the family pet. Not only does *Doggone Crazy!* provide a tool to teach children: it also offers parents some great tips and information to help keep their children out of harm's way.

Doggone Crazy! is available through the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (by phone at 1-888-678-2347 or on-line at www.cfhs.ca). An order form can also be found on the back page of this newsletter. A discounted rate is available for humane societies.

Saskatchewan SPCA turns 75!

A small group of supporters and members of the Saskatchewan SPCA braved cold and wind on September 13th to celebrate the organization's 75th anniversary. Queen's Golden Jubilee medals were also presented to Dr. Ernie Olfert, Jack Mackay, John Wilmott and Cathy Lauritsen (posthumously), for their decades of work to improve animal welfare in Saskatchewan. A plaque was also presented to Animal Protection Officer Les Buckmaster for his fourteen years of service.

The Saskatchewan SPCA was incorporated as a charitable society by an Act of the Provincial Legislature in 1928. It has jurisdiction in parts of the province not covered by a local SPCA or humane society; and investigates complaints of neglected and abused livestock and companion animals in rural and small town Saskatchewan.

CFHS Brings Be Kind to Animals Week (BKAW) to Canada!

Canadians can expect a flurry of activity next spring as the CFHS and shelters across Canada will inaugurate the first national *Be Kind to Animals Week*. Originally launched more than 90 years ago by the American Humane Association, and already celebrated in some shelters in this country, this event is officially coming to Canada thanks to a generous, \$20,000 sponsorship from Iams Canada.

The Canadian *Be Kind to Animals Week*, to be held from May 2nd to 8th, 2004, promises great materials, information, activities and contests to educate kids and adults about responsible pet ownership and respect for all animals.



Headlining this year's events are three contests. The first, aimed at children from Kindergarten to grade five, will be a drawing contest: kids will be asked to draw the answer to the question "How are you *Kind to Animals?*" The winning drawing will become the backdrop for all *Be Kind to Animals Week 2005* materials.

Students from grades six to eight can also participate in a *Be Kind to Animals Week* contest: their challenge will be to create a slogan or short poem, answering the question "Why is it important to *Be Kind to Animals?*" The winner will have his or her creation on all *Be Kind to Animals Week 2005* materials.

Finally, for the third contest, the CFHS will invite all Canadian cat and dog owners to send in their favourite photo of Fluffy and Fido. Winners will be treated to a prize from Iams.

Also keep an eye out for BKAW posters, brochures, and other materials in shelters, veterinary offices, schools and stores in your community in April and May!

How can you participate?

Teachers:

We encourage all teachers to get involved! The CFHS will be offering a free *Be Kind to Animals* humane education curriculum and other resources to help teach kids about animals. Teachers can also present the children's contests to their students!

Parents and kids

Canadians who want to participate on their own will be able to find contest information at www.bekindtoanimals.ca, or at their closest shelter **next March**. Contest entries can be dropped off at your local shelter or mailed to the CFHS.

A lending hand in time of crisis!

In early September, the Northwest Territories SPCA faced a crisis when more than 70 dogs were seized by the RCMP from a property just outside of Yellowknife. With all the dogs requiring vaccinations, spaying or neutering, and other medical attention, the urgency was twofold: not only would it be expensive to provide the necessary medical care for the dogs, but space was limited. It was impossible to house them all at the Great Slave Animal Hospital for an extended period of time (this organization works together with the NWT SPCA, since the SPCA does not have its own shelter).

In a great example of shelter solidarity, 39 of the dogs were flown to the Edmonton Humane Society on September 16th. The staff at both shelters hoped that Edmonton's larger population would provide better chances of the dogs being adopted.

As early as the next afternoon, more than 20 people had lined up outside the Edmonton shelter to see the NWT dogs that had arrived late the night before. By the end of that first day, nine of the dogs had already found new homes. At the time of printing, all but two of the dogs had been adopted in Edmonton.

The NWT SPCA extends their appreciation to the staff of the Great Slave Animal Hospital for the care they provided to the dozens of dogs. They also thank First Air for donating the flights for the 39 dogs sent to Edmonton; and the Northern News Services (the Yellowknifer) for their continued support and CBC North for their coverage of the dogs. Finally, both the NWT SPCA and the Edmonton Humane Society offer sincerest thanks to the citizens of Yellowknife and Edmonton who either adopted one of the many dogs or who provided volunteer support to the two shelters.

In theatres near you: *Best Friend Forgotten*

A film starring David Duchovny, Clover the dog and Oreo the cat is highlighting the pet overpopulation problem in a city near you.

Directed by American filmmaker Julie Lofton, *Best Friends Forgotten* is a heartwarming and heart wrenching story that takes viewers on a journey that begins on the streets of Los Angeles and Chicago where Clover, a Labrador Retriever mix, and Oreo, a black and white cat, are rescued and taken to animal shelters. The film follows the two through the shelter system where they will eventually either be adopted or meet the fate of millions of other homeless pets who are euthanized because there aren't enough homes. The film offers a thoughtful and balanced look at the controversial practice of euthanasia and the alternative "no-kill" movement.

The film's director, Julie Lofton, a former stand up comedian, decided to get serious about the problem of pet overpopulation after volunteering at a Los Angeles shelter where she saw countless animals euthanized because the shelter was overcrowded. Lofton realized that despite her tireless efforts as a volunteer, getting a few pets adopted was not making a significant impact on the problem. She wanted to do something

on a larger scale, so she put her production skills to work for the cause.

While the film educates the public about pet overpopulation, Give Voice to Animals, the company that produced the film, also wanted to financially help shelters. To do so, they planned large-scale events in more than 20 cities across North America – including Vancouver (Nov. 13th) and Toronto (Nov. 16th). CFHS was invited to participate in both events.

Each premiere gala night included a silent auction, a viewing of the film, a cocktail party for VIP ticket holders, and booths featuring humane societies and rescue groups participating in the event.

Each event allowed registered local humane societies and rescue groups to share in the profits of ticket sales, auction items, video sales and other items related to the premiere.

Best Friend Forgotten on television

If all else fails and you couldn't make it to one of the premieres, don't despair: *Best Friend Forgotten* will air on PBS in the spring. Check www.cfhs.ca or your local television listings for details.

Home Sweet Home, Thanks to PetLynx!

A few months ago in Hamilton, a lost kitten was brought to a veterinarian. A quick scan revealed that the animal was microchipped, and registered in the PetLynx database. A phone call later, and PetLynx had identified the kitten as recently adopted from the Hamilton-Burlington SPCA, and the new owners were contacted. The kitten was quickly reunited with its family.

Like this kitten, more lost pets are being reunited with their owners, thanks to the PetLynx North American Pet Identification and Recovery Service. In shelters across the country, adopted animals are now receiving low-cost microchips, a permanent registration in the PetLynx database, and free, 8-week trial pet insurance with Pet Plan Insurance. New owners and humane societies are already reaping the benefits.

This Fall marked another great advancement in the PetLynx system: ShelterLynx, a new shelter management software, was recently made available, free of cost, to all shelters participating in the PetLynx program. This new software will allow humane societies to keep track of an animal's location and information from the time they enter the shelter to the time they leave.

Don't forget to register your pet in the North American Pet Identification and Recovery Service! Visit www.petlynx.net to register or to learn more about the programs.

Shelters wanting to join the PetLynx/Pet Plan program can contact Eric Crawford Adriaans or Tanya O'Callaghan at the CFHS office at 1-888-678-2347.



News From the Farm



New farm programs at CFHS

Thanks to a generous grant from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), the CFHS is continuing its program expansion with the creation of a new Farm Animal Welfare Sustainability Project. The goal of this project is to work with various stakeholders on the issues of livestock emergencies, agricultural building codes and equine husbandry and to develop a sustainable plan to address these issues on an ongoing basis.

The HRDC grant will allow the CFHS to employ three new farm animal welfare specialists for a ten month contract period to develop two broad new programs.

One of the farm specialists will research and develop a new program in equine husbandry to address issues such as Pregnant Mare Urine (PMU) facilities, rodeos, riding facilities, competitive events, etc. This program is a continuation of the CFHS' relationship with the Mitchell Centre for equine rescue and education, an Alberta-based organization whose goal is to rescue horses from needless slaughter and adopt them out to knowledgeable and caring homes. They also work to educate the public about horse husbandry.

The other part of the CFHS' farm animal welfare program will concentrate on livestock emergency issues. One such activity will be the continued development of the Canadian Livestock Emergency Fund (CLEF). Created after last year's HayWest campaign, CLEF will be a permanent fund to provide financial assistance to farmers in times of localized emergencies due to natural disasters (such as drought). Another component of this program will include research into barn fires, and the development of recommendations for future improvements in this area.

The new project coordinator will also concentrate on building partnerships and funding to help ensure that the farm animal welfare program remains a permanent fixture at the CFHS.

In Brief...

An audit of Canadian slaughterhouses, conducted over the last two years by Dr. Temple Grandin, shows Canada's animal welfare standards are falling: 43% of audited slaughterhouses failed in one category or another, with horrifying tales being described.

The study, commissioned by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, with funding from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, among others, audited 16 Canadian beef, pork and chicken slaughterhouses during 2002 and 2003. Dr. Grandin, who oversaw the study, is an American professor who is recognized around the world for her audits and research to improve the welfare of animals in slaughterhouses.

At one plant, an employee hung three cattle, still conscious, upside down by one leg. One of the animals was still bellowing when the employee attempted to bleed it without re-stunning it. Slipping, falling, excessive pressure applied by a restraint device or slamming gates on cattle and excessive use of electric prods caused other slaughterhouses to fail the audit.

Dr. Grandin's report noted that poor training of employees was a major problem at the failing slaughterhouses.

The CFHS continues its work with government and industry groups to help improve farm animal welfare standards, through initiatives such as the Livestock Codes of Practice. The CFHS is also participating in a consultation process initiated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to improve the care and prevent the transportation of downers (injured or diseased animals).

Think Green This Christmas!

by N. Glenn Perrett

Christmas is a fun time for pets as well as their humans! Our four-legged friends enjoy receiving gifts. Some of the more popular products for pets are not only beneficial for our animal companions, but they're also good for the environment or support companies that help the environment. Remember: while toys are appreciated by pets, some products can be dangerous – especially if their condition deteriorates. It is wise to give new toys and products to pets under supervision. It is our pleasure to introduce a couple of these companies to you:

Ecowise (www.ecowiseproducts.com)

St. John's, Newfoundland
www.ecowiseproducts.com
Tel: (709) 753-9473

Ecowise is an environmentally-friendly company that sells various products for pets and people. They carry a good selection of practical items as well as some toys; everything from hemp catnip mice to leashes and collars to comfortable beds.

Collars & Leashes

Ecowise sells several styles of pet collars and leashes made from hemp. Hemp is a versatile plant that makes quality, long-lasting, durable products, but it is also very good for the environment.

Pet Travel Bowl

Ecowise's pet travel bowls contain a waterproof liner and a hemp outer shell. These bowls are great for use during hikes or for light travel as they fold up into a very compact item.

Pet Bed

Our dogs love their large bed from Ecowise. They have certainly put the large (36" x 48") bed to the test and it has passed with flying colours! The bottom is made of hemp and cotton while the top is "Ecospun" which is made of 100% recycled soda bottles! This material is both comfortable and warm. The inside of the bed is filled with foam and cedar chips.



Hemp Catnip Mouse

A nice eco-gift for your favourite felines is a catnip mouse. These durable mice are made from hemp and filled with hemp material and organic catnip.

Planet Dog (www.planetdog.com)

Portland, Maine
www.planetdog.com
Tel: (800) 381-1516

Planet Dog offers a great selection of items for pets and their humans. Many of these items are environmentally-friendly and Planet Dog generously donates 10% of its annual profits towards causes that help to preserve and restore the natural environment.

Kitten Mitten

Ever come out on the losing end of a play session with your cat? Now you can have fun playing with your feline friends with the Kitten Mitten. This glove features pom-poms and cat nip to drive your cats crazy, but it also offers you protection for your hands.

Cardboard Cat Bed With Crayons/Fleece Pad

If you're looking for a comfortable cat bed you might consider this cardboard bed. A comfortable fleece that fits into the box is also available. Soy based crayons come with the bed and can be used to decorate it. Our cats love their bed and our children enjoyed decorating it!



Hemp Collars & Leashes

Planet dog has quality flat and rolled hemp collars and leashes for dogs. Made from 100% hemp, these durable leashes and collars look great and are made to last.



Gifts for "Pet People"

A gift idea for humans who have been adopted by pets is Dog-opoly which features fun variations of the game Monopoly. And for those who are frequently taking their animal companions outside, there is the Muckster Shoe. These easy on/easy off, all-weather, waterproof, people-sized shoes are made of rubber with a nylon liner and can be rinsed clean.

A Final Word

The holidays are a special time. Include your "best friends" in the gift-giving process and make this a green Christmas by supporting environmentally-friendly companies at the same time!

** The CFHS receives no royalties for these products.*

This book is definitely worth a look!

By N. Glenn Perrett

For Bea: The Story of the Beagle Who Changed My Life

By Kristin Von Kreisler
Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam
2003, 193 pages
ISBN: 1585422223



Every so often a book is published that is an excellent read and also has the potential to do a lot of good. Such is the case with *For Bea: The Story of the Beagle Who Changed My Life*. Written by Kristin Von Kreisler, *For Bea* is the heart-warming story of how the author and her husband came across a terrified, malnourished, female beagle hiding in a gully near their Mill Valley, California home. Once they brought the frightened beagle to their home they discovered a tattoo in Bea's ear, which led them to find out that she was a survivor from an animal research laboratory.

Von Kreisler and her husband adopted the beagle, whom they named after a friend – Sister Beatrice. With the adoption began the process of healing Bea – both physically and emotionally. Although it took a while, and there were set backs, Bea became a loving, confident dog.

For Bea is an entertaining and informative book that describes the inspirational rescue of a wonderful dog in particular, and how even dogs who require extra care, patience and love give infinitely more than they receive.

"But mostly, Bea had taught us about love. Sometimes I thought of her as a fur-wrapped, special-delivery package, sent from the cosmos solely to wake John and me up to love's extraordinary power – which, we now knew, could come most magnificently even from a small dog. Bea had given us so much more than we ever gave her, and she had loved us with such intensity and fervor." (page 156)

While the author's experiences and relationship with her dog are the focus of the book, Von Kreisler effectively conveys to the reader the needless cruelty of animal research. She does so first in describing the hurdles Bea had to overcome as a result of being used for research. Von Kreisler continues in the book's last chapter "Postscript: A Final Lesson from Bea", where she explains the number of innocent animals tortured in the name of research, how animal research has hindered medical advancement and lists some of the humane alternatives available.

For Bea is one of those books that must be read – and not just by "animal people."

A Sad Day for Animals *continued from page 1*

that this amendment is not only superfluous, since it offers no additional protection than what is already guaranteed to Aboriginals under the Constitution or their treaties, but that it may also lead to unintended mischief by individuals who mistakenly believe that the addition offers more protection than it does.

In fact, even the Assembly of First Nations, one of Canada's leading organizations representing Aboriginals, has written that they "certainly agree that Aboriginal harvesting falls fully within the category of legitimate activity and is therefore protected by this proposed legislation." They are nonetheless asking for a specific reference to guarantee traditional Aboriginal harvesting practices under Bill C-10B "as a gesture of good will."

Senator Charlie Watt, an Inuit hunter, has gone as far as to say that without such an amendment, Bill C-10B will lead to the "cultural genocide" of Aboriginal hunters and trappers.

The CFHS continues to oppose the Aboriginal amendment. Like the Assembly of First Nations, we understand that traditional Aboriginal activities are well protected under the Constitution, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and relevant treaties – all of which supercede the Criminal Code. Our position is that Canada's Criminal Code should be drafted according to sound and strong legal principles, and that it should not be drafted or amended to merely show good will. Finally, our position is that Senator Watt's accusations are a gross exaggeration, and are completely unfounded – particularly in light of the Assembly of First Nations' statements. He should be ashamed.

What can you do?

The CFHS invites all Canadians to write to the future Prime Minister, Paul Martin, to make him understand that improved animal cruelty legislation is an issue of importance to a large number of Canadians.

Write to Mr. Martin at:
The Hon. Paul Martin
MP - Lasalle - Émard
House of Commons
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

**** No stamp is required**

Please visit <http://www.cfhs.ca/CriminalCode/index.htm> for more information on Bill C-10B.

Doggone Crazy! Order Form

Qty	Product	Total
	Doggone Crazy Game Set (\$33.95 each)	\$
	Subtotal	\$
	GST (7%)	\$
	PST (8% - Ontario residents only)	\$
	Shipping charges (\$7.50 each game)	\$
	Total	\$



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Fax your completed order form to (613) 723-0252 or
 mail to: Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, 102-30 Concourse Gate, Ottawa, Ontario K2E 7V7

Thanks!

CFHS would like to thank Rideau Mailing Services for providing discounted lettershop services.

Animals and Us Has a New Name!

Look for Animals and Us under its new name:
Animals, Eh?

Thanks!

CFHS would like to thank Storm Internet for hosting its website and providing email service for the office at no charge for the past few years.



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