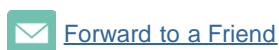


Voice For Animals E-Newsletter

May/June 2012



Voice for Animals
v4a.org

Your donations are important because they enable us to keep on top of the crucial animal rights issues in your community, so please [DONATE TODAY!](#)

Your donations are very much appreciated by V4A and the animals we help so thank-you for your support!

If you have any questions regarding donations please email inquiries to info@v4a.org, phone (780) 490-0905, or mail to P.O. Box 68119, 162 Bonnie Doon Mall, Edmonton, AB, T6C 4N6, Canada

What you can do
to Help

From the Editor's Desk

Hello! My name is Rebecca Staines and I am the new editor of the Voice for Animals newsletter. I'd like to welcome you to our brand new e-newsletter! Every two months this newsletter will arrive in your inbox full of articles that will hopefully inform, entertain, and make you think.

In this premiere issue for instance you will find articles on the history of animals in entertainment, the ethical considerations behind objections to the use of animals in entertainment, some alternatives to animal entertainment, as well as upcoming protests being held by Voice for Animals and book and restaurant reviews.

Our next issue will focus on pet care and adoption so I urge you to send in your own animal adoption stories. If you can manage a photo of your beloved pet to accompany the story that would be fantastic! Plus, feel free to send along any vegetarian pet food recipes that you may have.

A final note: I would like to thank our outgoing editor, Amber Ford, for her dedication and exceptional work over the years.

Enjoy the first issue and if you have any thoughts or feelings that you would like to share with me regarding our newsletter please email me at V4Aeditor@yahoo.ca - I'm always happy to hear from our supporters/readers!

Rebecca Staines

Post Script: At this time our Facebook, Twitter, and Email Forwarding links do not work. We are working on rectifying this problem so that the links are fully functional for our second issue. Thank-you for your patience!



Animals in Entertainment
by Natalie Forman



Our Ethical Responsibility: Part

* Visit the [V4A website](#) to find featured campaigns and action alerts that you can aid by writing letters, signing petitions, attending rallies, etc.

* [Volunteer](#) your time to the organization

* [Donate](#) money to V4A

* Always spay and neuter your animal companion

* Choose to adopt your animal companion from a shelter rather than through a breeder



Upcoming Events by Tove Reece

* Royal Canadian Circus protest - Tuesday May 22, 2012 at 7 pm. Edmonton Expo Center. We will announce the exact time and location to meet for the protest at a later date.

* Worldwide Vegan Bake Sale - June 16, 2012 from 11 am to 3 pm at Earth's General Store. Voice for Animals will be teaming up with Vegans and Vegetarians of Alberta for this event.

Click on the above picture to go to our updated events calendar. Check back often for newly added events/protests!

When we hear the words "animals in entertainment" the first image that likely comes to mind is the striped tents, caged cats, and head-dressed elephants of the big top.

That's no surprise, considering how long the circus has been around. The original circus, created centuries ago by ancient Romans, is known to have exhibited much of what the modern circus boasts: jugglers, acrobats, and of course, animals. The 18th century added a variety of novelties to the event, such as stunt acts, and sideshows, and exotic wildlife. But, while the Roman Empire has given civilization many great ideas and inventions, the circus is not one of them, for what it eventually became in the 19th and 20th centuries was nothing more than a gross abuse of the voiceless animals trained, paraded, and punished for the amusement of anyone who could afford a ticket.

Fortunately, the tireless efforts of passionate advocates has aided in improving conditions for animals in circuses, resulted in tougher legislation regarding the treatment of those animals, and, in general, has encouraged the slow decline in the popular opinion of the circus. The fight continues however because as long as there are still people willing to pay the entry fee, animals will still be forced to perform.

Circus animals are not the only animals whose situations are inspiring us to ask important questions regarding our own ethical standpoints on animal rights. Take for instance the yearly rodeos popular in our province, revolving around inhumane "games" allowing men and women to prove their prowess at dominating a variety of animals; the costumed donkeys standing on sweltering sidewalks in popular vacation destinations, being posed for picture-happy tourists; petting zoos, where animals are

One: Animal Entertainment by David Phillips

For many (if not most) advocates of animal welfare and rights, the issue of ethics is the major driving force behind their ideology. At the same time, many people with a variety of views may not be aware of or understand the ethics argument. Thus in discourse on these matters, it is important to discuss just what those ethics are, what they mean and how they can (and arguably should) be applied.

Although entertainment is, by definition, "fun," most people would agree that fun should not be at the expense of others. At least, not without their consent. When it comes to the use of animals in entertainment, more often than not it is unfortunately at their expense in some way or another and, with obvious communication barriers, arguably without their consent (I say "arguably" since some may say that an animal's body language or "attitude" may imply consent, although I do not believe this suffices).

Animal bloodsports - bullfighting, dogfighting, cockfighting, etc - are obvious examples of where animals suffer and die for the sake of entertainment. Less obvious may be more commonly accepted forms of entertainment such as rodeos and circuses. Although violence is not an inherent part of their activities, injuries and death can and frequently do occur nonetheless, as a result of handling and the accident-prone nature of the activities involved. Additionally, often overlooked is the psychological impact. Animals are not mindless drones which simply do what they are told or otherwise sit around like a rock oblivious to their

subjected to the handling of hundreds of human hands. Add to this the fact that the evolution of modern media has unfortunately brought with it another form of morally questionable animal entertainment: animal "actors." Think of the movies you have seen on the big and small screen, television series' that have aired over the last seventy years, and the commercials that are played dozens of times a day on top network channels: chances are a fair number have featured creatures from all genetic backgrounds. Unfortunately, while the homo sapiens we see via those visual mediums actively pursue their roles and are adequately compensated for their contributions, the dogs, cats, horses, bears, and chimpanzees were forcibly conscripted to play their parts. Animals, incapable of voicing their protestations, are given no choice in the matter - they are simply handled by trainers and keepers and pressed into performing a series of actions designed to delight and enthrall us, the public.

So, please do your part to actively boycott the use of animals in entertainment, educate others, and speak out on behalf of your belief in basic rights and freedoms for ALL earthlings.

surroundings. They experience emotions and have natural instincts. They can become frightened or anxious when herded into circus or rodeo trucks or paraded around in front of throngs of people, which may lead to aggression. They can become depressed and neurotic when caged or shackled for extended periods, especially if they are normally social animals and are isolated from meaningful interaction with each other. They can become both physically and psychologically exhausted from training routines. One response to such criticisms is usually to suggest that the use of the animals is theoretically ok, but that policies just need to be formed and enforced to improve conditions. However, there will always be some level of stress and danger to the animals, and they can not explicitly give consent or be aware of the dangers. And, in practice, policies tend to be insufficiently defined and/or enforced.

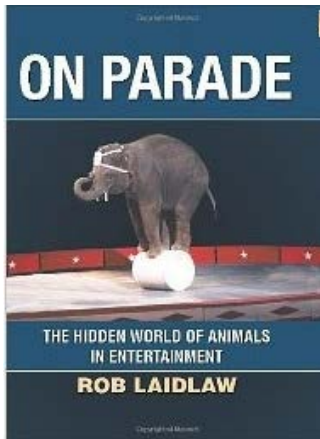
Surely, if we realize the sentient nature of the animals involved, and employ empathy, we can see the ethical problems with the use of animals in entertainment. The easiest way to help stop it is simply to make the decision, as a consumer, to spend your time and money elsewhere. After all, there are all kinds of entertainment out there, most not involving animals at all. Making such a choice is really no skin off our backs, but collectively it can do a world of good for the animals.

Alternatives to Animal Entertainment

by Rebecca Staines

If, after having read the above articles, you've decided that you'd rather not fund non-animal friendly activities like zoos, circuses, and rodeos then why not try the [Telus World of Science](#) with its fun and interactive exhibits? There's something for every member of the family and the IMAX theatre is there to excite and inform! If that doesn't tickle your fancy or is a bit too pricey for your budget why not try the [Art Gallery of Alberta](#)? With its sophisticated art

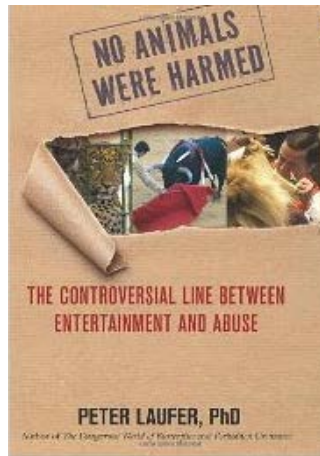
exhibits for the parents and design-your-own-architecture block rooms for the kiddies it's a perfect way to spend a lazy afternoon. Other great family and animal friendly activities to do this spring and summer include: spending a day in the park - start off with a picnic lunch and end with a game of Frisbee or flying kites; take a trip to the [Jurassic Forest](#) where dinosaurs come alive (and where your kids can even ride one); enjoy theatrics and aerial feats at the [Firefly Theatre and Circus](#) (featuring an all-human cast); or hike through the woods where you can see the animals in their natural habitat, just don't go too far off the beaten path! You can further entice reluctant children by taking along a camera and encouraging them to capture photographs that you can then submit to local contests. This way, if the photo wins, your kids can see their own photos published giving a sense of pride, joy, and accomplishment! Click on the names in bold and they will take you directly to the corresponding business' web page - have fun!



On Parade: The Hidden World of Animals in Entertainment by Rob Laidlaw. Published by Fitzhenry & Whiteside in 2010. ISBN 978-1-55455-143-9

Review by Anna Chilewska

On Parade: The Hidden World of Animals in Entertainment by Rob Laidlaw is an illustrated study of animals used in the entertainment industry for juvenile readers. The book introduces the many ways in which animals have involuntarily participated in human entertainment, including circuses, film and television, traveling shows, rodeos and many more. Laidlaw - the founder of Zoocheck Canada - presents in an honest and unabashed manner the sadness, boredom, frustration and abuse that animals in the entertainment industry are subjected to on a daily basis. Each chapter deals with a specific type of this so-called entertainment, and each presents a comprehensive overview as well as individual



No Animals Were Harmed: the Controversial Line between Entertainment and Abuse by Peter Laufer, PhD. Published by Lyons Press in 2012.

Review by Anna Chilewska

In the third book of his animal trilogy, Peter Laufer sets out on an international, multicultural journey to study two important issues: animal use and animal abuse. He examines everything from Louisiana and Puerto Rico's cockfighting tradition, USA's canned hunts, Hungary's 100-year old circus to lesser-known forms of animal use such as animal abuse in art and cricket fighting in the laboratories of the University of Texas. Laufer asks himself and others what constitutes animal abuse. And he



The Clever Rabbit Vegetarian

Café

Review by Tove Reece

124th St. has long been Edmonton's art district but now people are also discovering the trendy shops and restaurants. A great new addition to this scene is the vegetarian/vegan Café, the Clever Rabbit. Located at 10722 - 124 St., this newly opened café serves breakfast and lunch Monday through Saturday. Although the menu is quite small, the food is fresh and delicious and the dishes innovative.

One clever example is the Donair - yes Donair. This vegan wrap is made from a homemade seitan roast shaved into thin strips, veggies and a great sauce. The dishes come decorated with a scattering of fresh berries and fruit on the plates.

Some other samplings that

case studies of animals that have been victimized by the industry. Through direct language and comprehensive guide, Laidlaw is able to reach his audience and offer suggestions on how they can become involved in helping those animals that are suffering for the sake of human amusement. The last portion of the book includes "Ten Ways to Help Animals in Entertainment" and a list of organizations that readers can contact in order to better educate themselves about the hidden industry and its devastating effects on non-human species. With beautiful, albeit sad photographs, and emotionally charged case studies, *On Parade* is a great start for all youngsters who want to learn more about the plight of animals and how to end their abuse.

interviews authors, scholars, politicians and many others, including Dr. Elliot Katz, Vladislav Goncharov, and princess Alia of Jordan in order to present an objective view where the perspectives of those labelled animal abusers and those labelled animal activists are presented.

As Laufer discusses social, cultural, moral, and political implications of using animals as entertainment he does not shy away from asking difficult questions and from including vivid written snapshots of a country-music star shooting a semi-domesticated bear or an artist beating livestock to death with a sledgehammer.

Although the book never provides any definitive answers to what is the difference between animal use and animal abuse, it is well-researched, well-written and, at times, surprising. The reader will walk away from the book not hating those who participate in cock fights, for example, but rather, they will be forced to look at their own interactions with non-human animals and re-examine them. And that, in itself, is worth the read.

received rave reviews were the Walnut and Chickpea Burger, the Vegan Egg and Tofu Biscuit, and the Granola with Coconut Yogurt (dairy yogurt is available). The Cafe also sells a wide variety of vegan baked goodies. Breakfast is \$9 and lunch \$12.

Next door and run by the same people is the Good Food Wishes Gourmet Pet Bakery. This pet bakery also sells pet furniture and doubles as a dog and cat rescue. Being cared for on the day we were there was a litter of tiny kittens rescued from a hoarding situation. A number of other cats and dogs in the store are also looking for homes and a scratch behind the ear.

The Clever Rabbit is well worth a visit, especially if you include a heartwarming stop to greet the animals next door.

[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2012 Voice For Animals All rights reserved.
Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 68119, 162 Bonnie Doon Mall, Edmonton, AB, T6C
4N6, Canada

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

