

Voice For Animals E-Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2014



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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

From the Editor's Desk

Hello Dear Readers,

Once again our newsletter is packed with interesting and informative articles such as those regarding feeding dogs in Hobema, the Alberta Government's plan to kill a pack of six wolves, as well as why you want to watch what products you purchase. Plus we have a book review on chimpanzees in a sanctuary along with a profile of the charity World Society for the Protection of Animals. And, most importantly, we have a very adorable kitty, Smokey, who is in need of a forever home, so please make sure you check out his profile at the bottom of the newsletter.

I ask that you also consider making a donation, as much as you feel comfortable with, to V4A this holiday season so that we can continue our important fight against Guzoo. Please read Tove Reece's article on why your donations are so crucial right now. Thank-you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful contributors for their informative and heartfelt articles. We couldn't do this newsletter without you! Thanks also to the volunteers who braved the snowy weather to participate in our CFR protest. Your support is always appreciated.

I will be taking a hiatus for several months, however I know the newsletter will be in good hands and will continue to educate and entertain.

I wish you all very happy holidays!

Thank-you for choosing us as your destination for learning about animal rights issues.

Rebecca Staines

Our website is currently undergoing a facelift so I ask that you please bear with us. Thank-you.

What you can do to Help

* 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

Fur Free Friday

When: November 28, 2014

Where: Everywhere - more information will be added at a later date regarding leafleting or an "awareness action" somewhere in Edmonton. Please check our Facebook site.

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



Responsible Feeding: my story about Hobbema's dogs by Anna Chilewska

Hobbema is a place that is close to my heart for two very different reasons. First, it is because of the wonderful, kind individuals who live there and whom I have met through working at the Maskwacis Culture College. I like spending time in the town, talking to people and learning about their culture. And second, it is because of the dogs that I have been feeding for several years now.

A few years ago I was made aware of how my feeding was contributing to the problem of dog aggression. I want to share this story in hopes that when people feed the Hobbema dogs, they do it responsibly. There are many kind individuals who feed the stray and semi-stray dogs that roam the town of Hobbema. It is not always possible to tell if a dog belongs to someone as Aboriginal people have their own way of caring for their animals. So dogs that get fed by strangers might be someone's companion, and as a result, they appear friendly and well-behaved. In the not-so-distant past I used to drive to Hobbema to dump a bag of dog food wherever I saw a group of dogs. Having seen the animals greet me with wagging tails and devour the food made me feel good about myself. I thought I was doing a good deed and was helping the dogs, some of whom often looked sickly and starving.



The Wolves of Elk Island

submitted by Tove Reece

The provincial government recently approved the killing of wolves settled in Elk Island National Park and the neighbouring Blackfoot Recreational Area. This decision was made to placate the demands of farmers grazing their cattle in a provincial park. How many cows, if any, have been killed is unclear but the farmers are upset because they claim the wolves have chased the cows causing them to gain less weight. The farmers are compensated for any losses due to predation.

Below is an exchange between Karin Nelson, a member of Voice for Animals, and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Parks Division, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Karin expresses her outrage at this senseless killing of wildlife.

I am writing to express my disgust and non support of the plan to kill a wolf pack around Elk Island Park because they are supposedly killing cattle.

Cattle are the invasive species and ranchers need to find non lethal methods of dealing with this issue when they decide to graze and raise cattle in wolf, coyote, cougar and other predators' territories.

You, as an organization are

But one day an elderly gentleman from the Cree Nation approached me and kindly asked me to dump dog food somewhere else. His request surprised me and I could not prevent myself from asking him what I was doing wrong. To be perfectly honest, I felt offended. But his explanation made me realise how irresponsible I was being. What many of us do, the gentleman explained, is put out food near buildings, sometimes schools and stores. This creates a dangerous situation for people because dogs run in packs and become aggressive around their meal. Therefore, as we try to help those animals, we must also respect the inhabitants of Hobbema. It is easy to get carried away and feel righteous by buying a bag of expensive food and leaving it for the dogs to enjoy. But the problem is that we do not consider the potentially dangerous habit that this creates. Feral and stray dogs gather near wherever they remember food gets dropped and often bark, growl and even bite those who pass near their feeding spots. Moreover, they occasionally fight with other packs that attempt to steal food. But the worst situations were being created around schools, where young children would get bitten on occasion, and a dog would have to be shot as a result. If I were going to continue feeding them, the wise gentleman explained, I was going to have to change this routine and be respectful of the area and its residents. Following a discussion I had with him and an Aboriginal lady who also feeds strays, I started leaving food on the outskirts of the town where traffic was light and no children were typically present. That way, I could

once again bowing to pressure of ranchers in the culling, killing and round up of wild animals because of the interests of greedy cattle ranchers. You have done the same in the foothills when rounding up horses and when supporting hunting and trapping programs.

I say NO to killing these wolves. Stop this irresponsible act of predator eradication. Wildlife does not need and warrant this kind of so called "management".

I want to hear back from your office as to why you are justifying this. Ecosystems need predators and what you are doing is wrong!!

Karin Nelson

Hello Ms. Nelson and thanks for your note and for sharing your thoughts and perspectives with us. Before I provide a more formal response I thought I would check with you to ensure that understand that there no plans to eliminate the wolf presence from the PRA? In reading your note it appeared that you believe we have plans to cull the entire wolf pack.

Human use is, and always has been, part of the ecosystem and the approval to reduce a small number of wolves from the pack is intended to change the behavior of the pack. There is an important role for wolves to play on the landscape and it is not our goal to change that. However we do wish to see successful coexistence of the various uses at this location, including continued grazing, which benefits the area greatly by reducing fire risk.

Graham Statt
ADM Parks Division
ESRD

continue to feed the dogs but I would be minimizing potentially dangerous encounters. Today, I am much more educated about Hobbema and its dogs, and I try to work together with those who live there so that whatever I do, I do it responsibly.



**Your Donation is
Critical to Help Us
Shut Down GuZoo**

submitted by Tove Reece

Sadly, the animals at GuZoo now face another uncertain winter with frozen water bowls, irregular feeding of substandard food, and inadequate shelter. The Alberta Government has continued to issue licences that keep this deplorable, ramshackle "zoo" operating. GuZoo has thumbed its nose at provincial laws for years and for the government to turn a blind eye is a total negligence of duty.

Voice for Animals has now decided that the courts are the only option to get the government to enforce its own laws and get the animals to safety. This September Voice for Animals and Zoocheck Canada filed an application for a **Judicial Review** of GuZoo's 2014 licence. We hope a favourable outcome will also help Lucy, alone and in constant pain—a clear violation of the Zoo Standards.

We must stop this longstanding and ongoing abuse of

Note: response as received.

Thank you for your reply. Human beings have to stop believing that we are the ones who must "manage" nature and I am NOT in favour in any way when the interests of the cattle and animal agriculture business are put before the interests of wildlife. I understand that there is to be the killing of a few pack members....why is only killing a few members of a family more acceptable in your eyes than killing all of them? If this were your family, or any human family, would only killing selected members make it right? This argument is ridiculous! You are correct, it will change the pack behavior and we have NO RIGHT to do this. It is humans that must change our behaviour to keep the natural world intact.

Regards,
Karin Nelson

animals at GuZoo but we need your help. Your donation will ensure that we can keep fighting for the animals suffering at GuZoo and many other places. With your help we can make the coming year a better one for animals.

You can send a cheque to:

**Voice for Animals
Humane Society**
Box 68119, 162 Bonnie
Doon Mall
Edmonton, AB, T6C 4N6

Or donate using Paypal.
We are working on a new website, however the following link is still active:

<http://www.v4a.org/?q=node/7>

Animal Testing: Let your Shopping Dollars be the Voice for Animals

by Louise Schutte

"Animals should not suffer in the name of beauty. Testing toiletries and cosmetics on animals is cruel and unnecessary." - Sir Paul McCartney

Scientists have been testing products on animals since the 1930s. In that time they have discovered *thousands* of ingredients that are deemed safe for human use and more impressively have discovered reliable, cruelty-free methods. Several profitable non-cruelty methods already being used include: cell and tissue cultures; sophisticated computer and mathematical models; embryonic stem cell tests; human skin model tests such as EpiDerm™; and utilizing human skin left over from surgical procedures or donated cadavers. Yet they continue to test on animals!

Two important rules:

1) Don't trust celebrity endorsement. Several of our products come from parent companies in the United States - where animal testing is not even an FDA requirement. Many celebrities, including Ellen DeGeneres, a well-known vegan and animal lover, endorse CoverGirl - described as one of the largest companies conducting animal testing in the United States. It is time for consumers to make their shopping dollars be the voice for animals.

2) Obtain a current version of a Cruelty Free Shopping Guide from a trusted animal rights organization. PETA has one you can order or print off for yourself (*Companies That Don't Test on Animals*). Take this with you every time you shop - store the alphabetical list with your reusable shopping bags. You may wish to print off extra copies to leave at your favourite stores. Consult the websites often; products get added and deleted as the companies' policies change. Leaping Bunny.org has a pocket-sized Compassionate Shopping Guide or you can download the free Leaping Bunny app from iTunes or Android Marketplace. If you can't find a product on any cruelty free website contact the company yourself and inquire as to whether they conduct, commission, or pay for any tests on animals for ingredients, formulations, or finished products. Be careful of product labels claiming "No Animal Testing." Some companies may claim that their company doesn't test on animals, when in fact they use an outside lab to do their dirty work. Be patient, polite, and persistent. Always get the answer in writing. If you receive a vague answer,

press on or inform the company that the answer is not satisfactory and you will have to take your business elsewhere. If enough of us inform companies why we are boycotting them, they'll start to get the hint that animal testing is not profitable.

You may not know that...

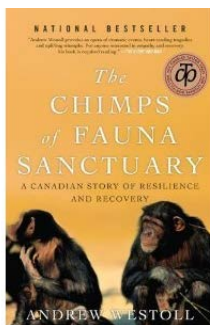
It's not just chemically derived products that are cruelly tested on animals. **Major label pet food** companies put dogs and cats through grueling, cruel tests whereby they are endlessly caged to the point of being driven mad - and chunks of muscle are cut out from their hind legs before the animal is tossed on the floor. Stay away from "New & Improved" versions of a product as this tends to translate to "continued animal torture."

If we continue to shop in an uninformed or uncaring manner, we are sending a message to companies that animal cruelty is acceptable. Most of us do not want to live in a world where we subject animals to such torturous events, yet we contradict those very sentiments with our shopping habits - habits that are tracked - habits that make companies billions of dollars.

Be informed and inform others about the importance of being aware of *how* this product got to the shelves and make the right choice - not the "popular" choice. You can save time by having friends and family members do some of the research and letter writing. Consult with vegan friends as to where they buy their cruelty free products. Check with stores for their selection of cruelty free products. Though it takes a *bit* more time to shop ethically, the results are well worth it.

"If you have information on human genes, what's the point of going back to animals?" - Gordon Baxter - cofounder Pharmagene Laboratories (New Scientist Aug 31, 1996)

(For Further tips - contact: LouiseSchutte@shaw.ca)



The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary by Andrew Westoll: A Review
by Natalie Forman

Andrew Westoll's story, *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary*, reads like a biography. Or rather, a dozen plus biographies of a dozen plus unique and vital personalities. In the book's pages, Westoll shows us candid and shocking snapshots of the painful histories and the present (and greatly improved) circumstances of a cobbled together family of rescued chimpanzees. Through



Smokey

submitted by Tove Reece

"Smokey" was probably dumped, just another throw-away. He was first spotted going through the garbage looking for food. Like any kitty that's been on the street for a while, he was frightened of people and quickly disappeared when he was approached. When food and water was set out for him, hunger



Profile of a Charity: World Society for the Protection of Animals

by Jessica Tibben

WSPA is a charity that works both locally with communities and globally in more than 50 countries. They tackle numerous animal cruelty issues all over the world and work directly with animals and organizations to ensure that animals are compassionately treated. Their vision is "a world where animal welfare matters and animal cruelty

Westoll we meet the woman who allowed those chimpanzees to escape from the cold and cruel exile of the laboratory cage and the tortured horrors of the circus' centre ring. We are introduced to a cast of dedicated individuals, people just like you or I, who sacrifice much to handle the difficult task of running the "chimhouse" and caring for its inhabitants 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. And, thanks to the quality of Westoll's kindhearted, comedic, and intuitive observations, we get to know the chimps themselves.

Fauna Sanctuary, founded in 1997, was brought into existence by the irrepressible and straight spoken Gloria Grow and her veterinarian husband Richard, who took their property in rural Quebec and, following what many thought was Gloria's pipedream, turned it into a guarded estate developed for, and by, a motley crew of chimpanzees.

Andrew Westoll, initially a primatologist before becoming a published author, was welcomed by Gloria to Fauna Sanctuary for three months, and for those three months, the author lived and breathed chimpanzee. He describes to us in great (and occasionally gritty) detail the routines that ensure the sanctuary runs as smoothly as possible, and shows us just why it is so important that it does.

Make no mistake: this is not an easy read. Each of the chimpanzees that Westoll meets and helps care for during his

overcame his fear and he soon learned to be more trusting, likely an indication that he has been someone's kitty, someone who no longer cared. Once Smokey learned to trust his new caregivers he was captured and brought inside to hopefully start a new life.

Smokey is a wonderfully friendly, talkative kitty and got along with his foster family's cat immediately. Within a day they were playing and chasing each other around the house. Even the dog doesn't faze him. He has now had a vet check-up; he was neutered, has had his shots and is sporting a microchip. The vet thinks he is probably about 5 years old. This lovely grey kitty now needs to find a loving forever home so if you think he would fit into yours, please contact us for more information. Email at: info@v4a.org or annfrank@shaw.ca.

has ended." They have consultative status at the Council of Europe and collaborate with national governments, the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health.

Some of their work and topics of import include:

- * Protecting bears from cruelty and captivity
- * Helping stray animals
- * Civet coffee production
- * Blood sports
- * Farm animal welfare
- * Achieving international recognition of the importance of animal welfare
- * Roadside zoos
- * Working horses
- * Disaster relief
- * Whaling
- * Bullfighting
- * Endangered orangutans

One of their biggest efforts has been their "Collars Not Cruelty" campaign. Twenty million dogs were being viciously killed annually because of rabies outbreaks in developing nations. WSPA began the campaign with local partners and authorities to set up vaccination clinics. The dogs are given a rabies vaccination and then given a bright red collar to show they are safe, therefore

time at Fauna are both physically and psychologically damaged. If you are like me, you may need to set this book aside to weep after a few particularly heartbreaking passages. But, there is humour enough to balance the grief, and the facts that Westoll shares with his readers about the current status of the fight against using chimpanzees for scientific research leaves us feeling not just moved, but informed, and, even more importantly, empowered to make a difference.

preventing senseless dog killing and protecting the communities from rabies.

If you are thinking of giving a gift to any animal lover, consider giving them one of WSPA's "Really Wild Gifts"- a personalized donation to your choice of animal for help such as veterinary expenses, food, shelter or vaccinations. Besides giving a "Really Wild Gift", there are multiple other ways you can help WSPA, a few of them include donating online, donating by phone or mail, participating in campaigns, living an animal friendly lifestyle, getting a BMO WSPA MasterCard, giving tribute and memorial gifts, and remembering WSPA in your will.

Education is an integral part of the animal welfare movement. For more information, you can visit their website <http://www.wspa.ca/> and enter your name and e-mail address on the left menu to sign up for their e-mail updates.

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