ARC NEWS

2004 Edition

A publication of the Animal Rights Coalition to promote a compassionate world

A New Bird in the Crosshairs

There will be a new bird in the crosshairs when the guns of autumn open fire this year. This bird will now be considered a "game bird" as it has been added to the already long list of birds that can be hunted in Minnesota. (Minnesota already has more birds that can be legally shot than any other state in the country.) This bird is small, weighing about 4 ounces and dressing out to less than 2 ounces of meat – hardly enough to rationalize killing it for food. Moreover, it is a slow flying bird. ***Because it flies slowly, the bird will make a good starter target to get children involved in recreational hunting***; as stated by the hunting lobby this past legislative session. Is teaching children to kill for fun a good idea? The bird that hunters just can't wait to blast out of the skies is the Mourning Dove, the historical symbol of peace.

The Mourning Dove has been protected in Minnesota since 1947, when the legislature passed a bill to remove it from the list of game birds and Republican Governor Luther Youngdahl signed the bill into law. In the 56 years since then, the hunting lobby has tried numerous times to make the dove legal to hunt again. During the 2004 legislative session, Minnesota lawmakers succumbed to the lobbyists and approved a bill to return the Mourning Dove to the list of game birds. Despite great opposition from Minnesotans all over the state, many of them hunters, Republican Governor Tim Pawlenty signed the bill into law in May.

Starting September 1, 2004 doves will be hunted in Minnesota for the first time in over half a century. Dove hunting will be a prelude to the regular hunting seasons. ***Simply put, it's about target practice***, allowing recreational hunters to hone their skills.

This fall, when hunters take to the fields in Minnesota, they will maim and kill literally hundreds of thousands of these gentle birds of peace, who often mate for life. Studies indicate a wounding rate of 20 to 30%, meaning that one in four birds will be wounded and not retrieved after being shot. If hunters kill 500,000 Mourning Doves each hunting season, it can be expected that they will wound and fail to retrieve more than 150,000 others. Here in Minnesota, where few hunters have experience shooting doves, the wounding rate could very well be higher.

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Mourning for Mourning Doves Vigil

August 31st 7 to 9 pm
State Capitol Steps, St. Paul

Please join speakers State Senator Don Betzold, State Representative Barb Goodwin, and former State Senator Alan Spear to show your opposition to this needless bloodshed and to memorialize the innocent birds who will die this year!

Meetings and Events Calendar

ARC in Action (AIA) Meetings

AIA meetings are held the second Saturday of every month from 10:00 – 11:00 am. Please join us to work on current projects and campaigns. This is a great way to meet other people who care about animals. The ARC office is located at 3249 Hennepin Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The office is open every Wednesday from noon - 8:00.

Education Minnesota Professional Conference

Thursday and Friday, October 21st and 22nd at St. Paul River Centre from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. ARC Board members and volunteers will be staffing ARC's booth at Minnesota's largest professional development event for educators.

For the latest ARC updates, go to www.animalrightscoalition.com or call 612-822-6161

But What Are the Kids Going to Eat?

Going meat-free doesn't have to mean giving up the foods that you love! Whether you're suffering from an after-school snack attack or a case of the munchies at the mall, we've found some great vegetarian eats that will cure all your cravings. Check 'em out!

- Hormel Vegetarian Chili
- Tofutti Macaroni & Better Than Cheese
- Amy's Bean and Rice Burrito
- Health Is Wealth Chicken-Free Nuggets
- Lightlife Smart Dogs
- Microwave popcorn (hold the butter, please)
- Foney Baloney
- Tofurky Jurky
- Fruit Leather
- Pretzels
- Burger King's BK Veggie™ is a great option for vegans on the go.

– from www.petakids.com

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New Bird in the Crosshairs

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Doves are still nesting in September and hunting them will orphan many newly hatched baby doves, condemning them to suffer and die of starvation.

Because Mourning Doves are such small birds with little flesh on their bodies, there will not be much left of the bird after it is blasted with shot – even if the hunter does retrieve his victim.

It is not known how hunting doves will affect the dove population and the population of other bird species. In addition to wounding doves, dove hunters will mistakenly wound and kill protected songbirds and small raptorial birds such as American kestrels and sharp-shinned hawks. Then there is the damage that will be caused by the increase of lead discharge into our already threatened land and water resources. (Dove hunters are allowed to use lead shot as steel shot is more expensive and harder on gun barrels.) With so many missed shots and unretrieved birds, there will undoubtedly be an increase in lead toxins found in other animals and our environment.

No one has claimed that there is an overpopulation of Mourning Doves. Doves are not even found across our entire state. They do not live in the state's forested regions, living mainly in the agricultural part of the state. Farmers do not consider doves to be a nuisance. They do not damage crops. Just the opposite is true – doves are ground-feeding birds and actually help farmers by eating waste grains and weed seeds. These birds' feeding habits provide a welcome alternative to the chemical pesticides that are flooding our environment.

Doves are backyard birds and many people enjoy their presence in their yards and at their birdfeeders. People enjoy listening to their gentle cooing song. To most people, the idea of hunting Mourning Doves is much the same as hunting robins and cardinals.

Donate to ARC Using PayPal®

Did you know ARC now accepts online donations? Just like ebay® and your other online favorites, you can pay online using your credit card. Go to:

http://www.animalrightscoalition.com/

and click on the credit card icon.

If you don't already have a PayPal account, you can create one on the ARC donation page. With PayPal, your charitable giving is only a few mouse clicks

Connection, Communication, and Education

The following letter was sent last summer by ARC to the Editorial Department at the Star Tribune. We are reprinting the letter in this issue of the newsletter because we feel it is a good summary of the philosophy that governs how we approach issues related to animals.

An article in the 7/7 Minneapolis *Star Tribune* ("Shriners, animal-rights activists clash in Minneapolis") described an altercation between Shriners and animal-rights activists that occurred during a protest against Shrine circuses at the Shrine national convention. We were dismayed to see that yet again, the article attributed the altercation to "animal-rights activists" but did not name the organization that sponsored the demonstration. As there are at least eight active animal-rights organizations in the metro area, the use of a generic label to lump us all together implies we all are one and the same.

As the oldest animal-rights organization in the Twin Cities (founded in 1980) and a locally and nationally recognized voice for animal rights in Minnesota, the Animal Rights Coalition is dedicated to ending the suffering, abuse, and exploitation of non-human animals. ARC has always been willing to tackle campaigns to educate people about animal abuse and exploitation, whether it is the cruelty inherent in captive animal circuses, a single-town trapping ban, urban pigeon population issues, or dealing with the USDA.

We believe we can achieve these goals through practicing non-violence and compassion for all (including the human animal). Certainly, protests have their place, but the days are long gone when mounting a protest is guaranteed to be an effective response. We believe that change comes from connection, communication, and education, not from demonizing those on the other side of the philosophical fence.

Instead of continually (and loudly) proclaiming what we are against, we believe it is far more effective to let people know what we are for. To that end, we staff booths at many community events such as the Pride Festival, the Living Green Expo, and the PetExpo, respond to thousands of requests for information, and maintain a web site and library as educational resources. We are here not to win some imaginary battle to prove that "we are good and they are bad," but to peacefully organize and form alliances to create positive change.

Introducing Children to Animal Rights

Are you looking for a way to inform younger children about the plight of animals without exposing them to horrendous details and graphic photos? There is a great web site called Compassionate Kidz!, which does just that. You can find this site and share it with your children at:

http://www.compassionatekidz.org

With a page on "Why Do Animals Matter?" tailored just for children to sections on circuses, product testing, dairy cows, and other topics, this web site gently urges children to understand that:

"Compassionate means showing that you care about the feelings of others – including animals."

By teaching children about compassion at an early age we are shaping the future direction of attitudes towards animals – after all, today's children are tomorrow's future. ☺

The circus isn't "fun" for everyone. Boycott circuses that feature live animals.

Adopting an Animal Friendly Menu

In the spring of 2002, Animal Place launched Food for Thought: Adopting an Animal-Friendly Menu, a multi-year campaign to encourage SPCAs and humane societies to become consistent in their compassion and behavior toward all species. Animal Place is asking animal welfare organizations to adopt a vegetarian or vegan policy for all their events.

In a letter to her peers across the nation, Diane Allevato, executive director of the Marin Humane Society and a partner in the campaign, wrote: "The simple premise of the campaign involves asking ourselves two questions: What animals do we protect? And do we serve those same animals at our events?"

"Too often we rescue injured pigs from the roadway or adopt out a classroom chick that became a chicken; then we host our annual gala with breast of chicken on the menu or kick off our dog walks with a pancake breakfast featuring sausage links."

The Marin Humane Society has not served meat at its events for more than a decade. As Allevato explains, "We rescue them. We care for them. We adopt them. At our events, we should not have them on the menu."

Many Shelters Already Onboard

The following shelters have signed onto the Animal Place Advisory Committee: Peninsula Humane Society, CA; San Francisco SPCA, CA; Potter League Humane Society, RI; Oregon Humane Society, Whatcom Humane Society, WA; Champaign County Humane Society, IL; Humane Society of Huron Valley, MI; and the Wisconsin Humane Society, WI..

What You Can Do

- Contact your local humane society or shelter and ask them if they have a vegetarian policy. If they do, please let us know.
- If they don't have a policy, contact Food for Thought at info@animalplace.org or 707-449-4814 for a shelter information packet. Then you can hand deliver it to the shelter and ask that they review it. Let us know their response.

You can also download and print the online brochure *Adopting an Animal Friendly Menu for Your Shelter's Events* at:

http://www.animalplace.org/ap_food_for_thought_brochure.pdf

Hardcopy has a picture of ARC volunteer with visiting dog at ARC table

A Furry Friend Visits ARC's Booth at PetExpo

For the third year in a row ARC Board members and volunteers staffed a booth at PetExpo — held every year at the Minneapolis Convention Center. PetExpo features a wide variety of information. There are booths sponsored by rescue groups, breed groups, animal health experts, and vendors selling everything the well-cared for companion animal and his or her person could ever want.

Visit ARC's booth February 26th and 27th 2005

If you are interested in next year's PetExpo, you can find additional information at: http://www.twincitiespetexpo.com/

ARC Supports Chicken Run Rescue

Chickens and other domestic fowl make up the largest number of abused warm-blooded animals in the world. Along with the billions of birds who are slaughtered for food each year, millions more suffer in laboratories, get dumped in animal shelters, and die miserably in poultry houses without anyone knowing that they ever lived.

Chicken Run Rescue is working locally to elevate the status of chickens – one of the world's most misunderstood, exploited, and abused species and introduce them to an unaccustomed public as gentle, intelligent, and unique individuals. The poultry industry has worked hard to perpetuate the image of chickens as mindless sources of food. Contrary to this image, when in natural surroundings and not on factory farms, they form friendships and social hierarchies, recognize one another, love their young, and enjoy a full life – dust bathing, making nests, roosting in trees, and more. Few people realize that a chicken's natural lifespan is 14 years – the same as a dog or cat.

> *Some are the discarded outcome of "nature lessons" for children or a hobby that no longer holds interest.*

Every year, domestic fowl, mostly chickens, are impounded by Minneapolis Animal Control (MAC). These birds are victims of neglect, abuse, and abandonment, used as a source of eggs or intended for slaughter, fighting, or ritual sacrifice. Some are the discarded outcome of "nature lessons" for children or a hobby that no longer holds interest.

Sinclair Waits for a Happy Home

Bert of Chicken Run Rescue Holding Francis and Emma

Before July 2001, most domestic fowl received by MAC were euthanized. MAC's dedicated staff has developed cooperative relationships with numerous local animal rescue groups to transfer as many adoptable animals as possible who would have otherwise been destined for euthanasia. Since 2001 Chicken Run Rescue has worked with MAC to provide impounded chickens/domestic fowl with more comfortable accommodations while at MAC and a safe and happy life once they leave.

Finding Homes

After their release from MAC, Chicken Run Rescue provides these birds with physical and emotional rehabilitation, shelter, and veterinary care. Chicken Run then locates and screens potential adopters, and transports the birds to their new permanent adoptive homes.

In its first year of operation, Chicken Run rescued and placed 6 birds. In 2002, 18 birds were placed. 40 birds were placed in 2003 and as of the time of this article, 12 birds have been placed in 2004. A 100 % placement rate!

Recognizing that the number of chickens impounded by MAC is growing yearly, ARC has made grants to Chicken Run Rescue to defray their increasing expenses, and is working with Chicken Run to ensure that ALL animals are entitled to be protected by law and by humane organizations.

For More Information

For more information on chickens and other domestic fowl, visit the United Poultry Concerns web site at:

http://www.upc-online.org/

Portobello Tacos

2 cups chopped Portobello mushrooms
1 cup chopped broccoli
1/2 cup chopped carrots
1/2 cup sliced onion
1 teaspoon olive oil
1 cup chopped lettuce
1/3 cup chopped tomato
1/2 cup guacamole (optional)
4 - 6 flour tortillas

Fry onions, mushrooms, broccoli, and carrots in olive oil. When cooked to tender, remove and make up tortillas with veggies, chopped tomato, lettuce, and guacamole. Tortillas may be warmed up ahead of time in the microwave or on a stovetop pan.

Serves 4-6

ARC Sponsors the Neuter Commuter

Mobile Surgical Vehicle to Provide Low or No-Cost Services to Homeless Companion Animals

Each year, an estimated 20,000 dogs and cats are killed in Twin Cities area shelters and pounds because there are not enough homes for them. To help solve the overpopulation problem at the source, ARC has provided the funds to enable Animal Ark to purchase a 27-foot mobile surgical vehicle, dubbed the *Neuter Commuter*, that is custom designed for high-volume spay/neuter surgeries. Animal Ark is Minnesota's largest no-kill shelter and leads the Twin Cities' shelter community in developing innovative solutions for issues facing companion animals.

The Neuter Commuter

Program Overview

The Neuter Commuter will provide low or no-cost spay/neuter services to homeless companion animals in Minnesota. Spay/neuter activities will be divided into the following operations:

- **Low-Cost Sterilization for Shelters and Rescues**
  Five days per week, the Neuter Commuter will be put to use providing surgical sterilization of homeless companion animals. Three of those five days it will visit rescue organizations and provide low-cost surgeries for the animals these organizations plan to offer for adoption. Rescue organizations that do not have a shelter facility will be allowed to bring animals to these shelter visits so they may also take advantage of these low-cost services. Operating at maximum capacity and staffed with one veterinarian and two technicians, the Neuter Commuter will be able to sterilize from 20 to 30 animals per day.

- **No-Cost Sterilization of Feral Cats and Dogs**
  Two days per week the Neuter Commuter will be made available to area farms that are experiencing exploding populations of feral cats. Trap, neuter, and release services will be made available to cooperating property owners at no charge. Additionally, Animal Ark plans to visit area reservations to sterilize their growing populations of feral dogs.

- **Public Education**
  On weekends, the Neuter Commuter will be used for special events, including parades, remote adoption events, fairs, and other places where the vehicle can be used to educate the public about the importance of sterilizing their companion animals.

> *"If we are successful in eliminating the pet overpopulation problem, we will prevent the unnecessary killing of approximately 1 million dogs and cats in the Twin Cities area during my lifetime."*
>
> - Mike Fry, Executive Director
> Animal Ark

ARC is very excited about its involvement in this groundbreaking effort to end companion animal overpopulation in the Twin Cities area and hope you will be too! To make a donation to Animal Ark in support of the Neuter Commuter, you can donate online at the following web site:

https://animalark.eapps.com/animal/SecurePayment.nsf/Payment?OpenForm

or mail your donation to Animal Ark at 2600 Industrial Ct., Hastings, MN 55033.

Memorials

In memory of Callie who crossed the Rainbow Bridge on July 20th – beloved feline friend who lived out her golden years under Sandra's gentle care.

Chicken Facts – did you know?

A hen and her chicks communicate while the young are still in the shell.

9.7 billion animals are slaughtered for food in the U.S. every year. 9.4 billion are chickens.

It is illegal to slaughter a chicken (or any other animal) in Minneapolis.

Chickens (and other animals raised for food, breeding, experimentation, and wildlife) are now excluded from equal protection under Minnesota's cruelty laws. Setting fire to a cat is a felony. Setting fire to a chicken is a misdemeanor in Minnesota.

The Animal Welfare Act that gives minimal protection to animals used in experimentation was amended in 2002 to EXCLUDE birds, rats, and mice from protection by changing the definition of animal. Other farm animals were excluded from protection as well. Birds, rats, and mice represent the subjects of 95% of all U.S. research experiments.

Scratching in the dirt is the most important activity in the life of a chicken. Dust baths keep their skin free of dirt and parasites and their feathers shiny. They are also in constant search for nutritious plants and insects. Most chickens raised for meat or eggs have never touched grass or clean dirt.

Gray Wolf in Danger

Led by Republican appointee, Interior Secretary Gail Norton, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held a news conference July 16th at a wolf research facility in Forest Lake to announce a proposal to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list. The proposal would remove (*de-list*) the gray wolf in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

> Licensed trappers hired by property owners to capture wolves will bring back to life a practice that makes environmentalists shudder – a government bounty paid for each wolf they kill. Under current law, government trappers remove problem wolves.
>
> *Star Tribune*, July 17, 2004

The delisting proposal was published in the *Federal Register* on July 21, 2004. Comments will be accepted for 120 days (http://midwest.fws.gov/wolf). Public hearings will be held in the Twin Cities, Bemiji, and Eveleth. The Fish and Wildlife Service will announce details of these hearings in the near future. For more information, contact Linda Hatfield, director of HOWL (Help Our Wolves Live) at 612-822-2720.

BECOME AN ARC MEMBER

Name (please print)_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Email_____ Phone:_____

❑	$35	Basic Annual Membership
❑	$50	Patron Membership
❑	$100	Benefactor Membership
❑	$1000	Lifetime Membership
	____	Other donation

Your membership dues are tax deductible and automatically entitle you to receive ARC's newsletter. Send your check or money order payable to: Animal Rights Coalition, Inc., P.O. 8750, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Thank you!

Give an ARC membership as a gift. ARC will send a greeting card announcing your gift.

Send the card to: Name (please print)_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Animal Rights Coalition, Inc.
P.O. Box 8750
Minneapolis, MN 55408

stamp

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

For over 20 years ARC has been dedicated to ending the suffering, abuse, and exploitation of non-human animals through education, activism, and intervention.

Hardcopy has a picture of the ARC table at the conference

An annual event for dedicated ARC members is the Education Minnesota Conference. In 2003, ARC's outreach efforts brought the message of humane education to thousands of Minnesota teachers. Look for us again in 2004.

SHOP AND SUPPORT ARC

...up to 27% of each purchase you made went to your favorite worthy cause?

You can support the Animal Rights Coalition just by shopping online for brand-name items at over 452 well-known online stores. You'll also receive free deals and coupons just by becoming an iGive.com member.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Join to support ARC. It's FREE, private, and easy.
2. Shop the Mall at iGive.com. You'll find familiar stores like Dell, Lands End, The Gap, L.L. Bean, Barnes & Noble, Expedia, J.C. Penney, and many more.
3. Watch the money roll in for ARC.
4. Raise $1 for each new shopper you refer.