



ARC NEWS

2005 Edition

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

Mark your calendar for the Animal Rights Coalition's Annual Garage Sale



**Saturday, August 20
8:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

2834 39th Ave. South, Minneapolis
1 1/2 blocks N of Lake St.
on 39th Ave.

Call (612) 722-6168 to schedule a
donation drop-off. We welcome
donations of usable, quality
housewares, furniture, toys,
books, and children's clothing (no
adult clothing please). Here's your
chance to help the animals!

Animal Rights Coalition, Inc.
3249 Hennepin Ave. So.
Suite 30, Lower Level
Minneapolis, MN 55408



The Wildcat Sanctuary

Tammy Quist, Executive Director, The Wildcat Sanctuary

The captive wildcat crisis and exotic pet problem is in the news almost weekly. In Illinois, a man is mauled to death by two tigers kept in his backyard. A "pet" leopard attacks a woman in Louisiana. In North Carolina a 10-year-old boy is killed by his aunt's tiger, who pulled the boy under a fence and into his cage.

But before you decide this is someone else's problem, keep reading. In Racine, Minnesota a wild animal park is closed down for illegally trafficking endangered species. In Coon Rapids, an African serval is caught roaming a residential neighborhood. In Red Wing, seven tigers are seized after mauling a woman. And in Albert Lea, a malnourished tiger cub is seized from a home after school officials learn that scratches and bite marks on a fifth-grade boy were caused by his father's "pet" tiger.

Experts speculate there are as many as 10,000 large wildcats in private ownership across this country. Ron Tilson, Conservation Director for the Minnesota Zoo, stated that more tigers are in backyards across the U.S. than in all zoos put together. Humane Society of the U.S. President Wayne Pacelle said "The exotic animal trade is second only to the drug trade in raw dollars. Literally billions of dollars are exchanged in the exotic animal trade."

Slowly but surely state laws are being passed to put an end to this outrage and prohibit the buying and selling of dangerous wildcats as pets. Fortunately, Minnesota is included in these states and passed an exotic animal law that went into effect January 1, 2005.



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Meeting and Event Calendar

ARC in Action (AIA) Meetings

AIA meetings are held the second Saturday of every month from 10:00 to 11:00 am. Please join us to work on current projects. This is a great way to meet other people who care about animals. The ARC office is located at 3249 Hennepin Ave. S. in the Uptown area of Minneapolis. The office is open every Wednesday from noon to 7:00 pm.

Visit the ARC Booth at the following community events:

GLBT Pride Festival 2005

Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, 2005 at Loring Park in Minneapolis. The Festival is on Saturday from 10 am until 10 pm and on Sunday from noon to 8 pm. The festival is one of the largest Pride events in the U.S.

Rain Taxi Twin Cities Book Festival

Saturday, October 15. Location to be announced.

Education Minnesota Professional Conference 2005

Thursday, October 20, 2005 at St. Paul River Centre from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The conference is Minnesota's largest professional development event for educators.

Women's Expo

January 14, 15, 16 at Minneapolis Convention Center

Healthy Life Conference 2006

February 3 and 4 at Minneapolis Convention Center

Twin Cities Pet Expo 2006

February 18 and 19 at Minneapolis Convention Center

Twin Cities Children's Expo 2006

February 25 and 26 at Minneapolis Convention Center

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

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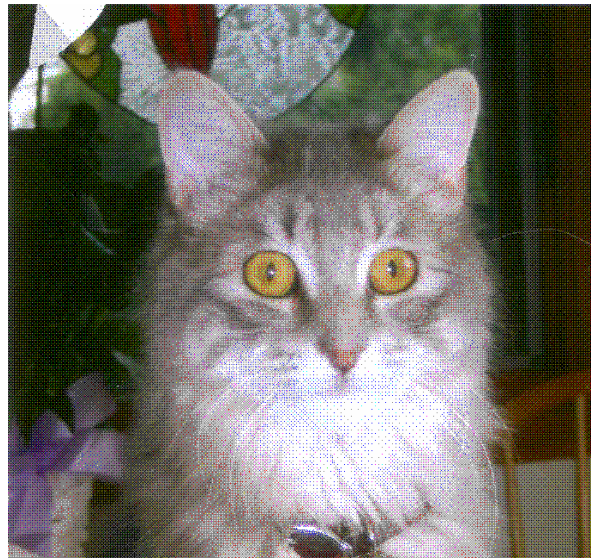
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The Cat Who Came for Christmas

Much like Cleveland Amory's famous *The Cat Who Came for Christmas* tale in which Mr. Amory personally rescued a stray cat on a snowy Christmas Eve, ARC volunteers rescued a threatened cat after receiving a call during the annual Holiday Open House. The callers reported they had found a cat. When the two young men heard pathetic meowing coming from a garbage dumpster, they investigated, pulled out a bundle, and were shocked to find a young cat tied up in a dirty pillowcase. They were very worried about her but could not adopt her as their apartment rules did not permit animals. On this very cold Sunday afternoon, two members of the ARC Board raced to the reported location and found one of the men gently cradling a trembling young cat in his arms.



From a Dumpster to a Safe Home

By the time the ARC Board members got the frightened cat into their car her little head was bobbing happily as if she knew she was finally saved. Being exhausted from her ordeal, she immediately fell asleep until her rescuers brought her back to the ARC office as a very special guest at the Open House. After she finished her nap, Phoebe (as she is now known) proceeded to entertain guests by approaching everyone for pats and scratches.

When she got to her new home and had a good meal, she turned out to be a feisty but very sweet little kitty. Phoebe now loves to play with her feline companions – stalking and pouncing on them. Phoebe can now sleep safely and peacefully with Luke (from Feline Rescue) and Coco (from another call to ARC). All three in a tight, happy little snuggle. 🐾

A Better Way to Control Feral Cats

Mike Fry, Executive Director, Animal Ark

All this talk of shooting domestic cats-gone-wild is unfortunate and does not address the root cause of the problem – irresponsible pet owners who let their domestic cats outside. Some of these pets invariably give birth to kittens under porches, in sheds, and other places where they are raised with little or no human contact; therefore, the offspring grow up wild.

The discussion of killing wild cats also fails to address the reality that fatal approaches to controlling animal populations are not really effective. Last fall, I was privileged to help coordinate the first ever, large-scale feral cat management project in Minnesota. On one property we trapped approximately 85 wild felines in just a few days. More than 90 percent of those kitties were under one year – and that was a colony that had been on the site for more than 20 years.

This tells us something really important. Only a small number of domestic “cats-gone-wild” survive Minnesota winters. No matter how many felines are trapped and killed or shot or poisoned, the number who do survive the winter to breed in the spring is unchanged. Unfortunately, domestic cats have an incredible reproduction rate. Starting with one female cat and her first litter, they can produce more than 400,000 kittens in just seven years. They can produce three to four litters per year. The babies themselves can start breeding at six months.

...all we really need to do is to keep our cats indoors and implement sterilization programs

With the warmer and shorter winters we've been seeing in Minnesota, the problem of feral felines is getting worse. The toll on wild animal populations is incomprehensible. Some estimate there are millions of feral felines in the Twin Cities metro area alone. Few humans see them, but they consume a lot of wildlife.

To solve this problem, all we really need to do is to keep our cats indoors and implement sterilization programs, such as the program Animal Ark launched last fall to ensure that the cats who do survive the winter are not capable of breeding.

Communities in other parts of the country have been dealing with this issue much longer than we have. It is only smart to look at what has worked elsewhere, rather than just shooting the cat at the bird feeder. ✍

ARC Helps the Feral Cat Population

Did you know?

- ARC provided the funds that enabled Animal Ark to purchase the Neuter Commuter, a 27-foot mobile surgical vehicle custom designed for high-volume spay/neuter surgeries. Putting the ARC-sponsored Neuter Commuter to its first test, ARC and other volunteers helped make the first large-scale feral cat trap-neuter-return project, described in Mike Fry's article, a huge success. In addition to the 60 adult cats trapped and sterilized, the 15 kittens trapped luckily tested negative for feline leukemia and were placed for adoption at Animal Ark's no-kill shelter or fostered in the homes of volunteers.
- ARC solicited financial donations for the project and presented a check for \$500 to Animal Ark to help with costs for the project.
- ARC provided shelters from IndyFeral especially designed for feral cats and heating pads, food dishes, and other supplies.
- ARC has provided over 1000 lbs. of cat food to the cat colony's designated human feeders who provide food for the colony every day.



Sponsored by: *Animal Rights Coalition*

James J. Wolf Family Foundation for Animals

AVMA Convention Coming To Minneapolis

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) will hold its annual convention in Minneapolis on July 16-20 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The AVMA currently endorses some very cruel practices:

- Housing pregnant sows in extremely small stalls called “gestation crates.” Gestation crates have been outlawed in Florida and some European countries.
- Crating veal calves for their entire lives in crates only two feet wide and feeding the calves a diet designed to make them anemic.
- Force-feeding birds to produce *foie gras*.
- De-beaking hens housed in battery cages.
- Electrical “stunning” of chickens in poultry slaughter plants (instead of the more humane argon/nitrogen-based gas stun/kill technology).
- Confinement and use of pregnant mares to make Premarin® from their urine



Confined in Gestation Crates

Because the AVMA is so influential, it is important for animal advocates to complain about these policies that endorse inhumane factory farming practices.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Ask your veterinarian to contact the AVMA to persuade it to change its position on these intolerable practices.
- Send a polite letter to the AVMA’s President-Elect at:

Dr. Henry E. Childers
American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360
- Join ARC in passing out literature to convention attendees before the Opening Ceremony. To volunteer for leafleting, call ARC at (612) 822-6161.



Battery Cage or Battery Prison?



Gestation crates are barren two-foot wide enclosures – so tiny that sows are unable to walk, turn around, or even lay down comfortably.

Wildcat Sanctuary

Continued from page 1

In the meantime these lions, tigers, cougars, lynx, bobcats, and a variety of other wildcat species are being confiscated and surrendered at a furious pace. Zoos decline to take them in and these captive-bred animals can never be released into the wild.

Established five years ago in Isanti County, Minnesota, The Wildcat Sanctuary is one of only fourteen accredited facilities nationwide that can provide a haven for these powerful wildcats. The sanctuary was established to provide humane rescue and housing of unwanted, neglected, and privately owned wildcats. We do not breed, buy, sell, or trade animals. We simply provide a home for life.

The sanctuary is currently home to cougars, lynx, caracals, servals, bobcats, and one Bengal tiger. New residents to the sanctuary are spayed or neutered upon arrival. Every animal lives in a spacious habitat furnished with a temperature-controlled shelter.

The sanctuary typically receives 30 calls a month from people wanting to surrender their wildcats. This demand has out-paced our capacity to house the wildcats in need. We have been at capacity for two years and have a long waiting list. We have continued to rescue and place cats, but we need a long-term solution.

The solution is a new, much larger facility that will house over one hundred cats. Just as important, the new Wildcat Sanctuary will allow us to provide much-needed public education, training opportunities to future large-animal and wildlife veterinarians, and expertise and support for legislative efforts addressing captive wildcat issues.

For more information on The Wildcat Sanctuary and the captive wildcat crisis, please visit www.wildcatsanctuary.org or call 763-444-8545.



EarthSave Events

Sunday, June 19, 2005

Presentation by Mary Britton Clouse and Bert Clouse of Chicken Run Rescue. Before July 2001, most domestic fowl impounded by Minneapolis Animal Control were killed because MAC had nowhere for them to go. Chicken Run Rescue was founded to assist domestic fowl. Chicken Run provides birds with temporary shelter and vet care, locates and screens adopters, and transports the birds to their new homes.

Sunday, July 17, 2005

EarthSave's 14th Annual "Independence" From Meat Summer Celebration Picnic, Hidden Falls Regional Park, St. Paul.

For more details on these events and information on upcoming monthly potlucks and Dine-Outs at area restaurants, go to the Twin Cities EarthSave web site at:

<http://twincities.earthsave.org/>

Advertising the Cause

To raise awareness of animal issues, ARC placed ads against the use of animals in research in the *Minnesota Daily* for National Primate Liberation Week and a pro-vegetarianism ad in the GLBT Pride edition of *Lavender*.



Vegetarians Taste Better!
To find out more...
Animal Rights Coalition
www.animalrightscoalition.com
612-822-6161

Minnesota Wildlife Still in Peril

Mourning Doves Remain Under the Gun

Linda Hatfield, Founder, Committee to Restore Peace to the Mourning Dove

Saving Mourning Doves from hunters' guns will take an act of legislation and a lot of hard work. During the current legislative session (2005-2006), Representative Michael Paymar, who believes strongly in protecting the Mourning Dove, introduced a bill in the Minnesota House (H.F. 1311) to remove the Mourning Dove from the list of game birds. The bill's co-authors were Representatives Alice Hausman, Ron Erhardt, Peter Nelson, Mindy Greiling, Phyllis Kahn, Jean Wagenius, and Barb Goodwin. Senator Scott Dibble introduced a companion bill in the Senate (S.F. 2252). Even though the bills did not have a hearing in either body this year, it is still possible they could be heard during the 2006 legislative session. These legislators need to know we are behind them and that we will support their bills and work to help them get the bills passed.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Write and/or call your State Representatives/State Senators and ask them to support these bills.
- If your legislators voted to hunt doves, ask them to reconsider.
- Continue to submit letters to your local paper.

For points to make in your letters, read the dove fact sheet posted on the ARC web site at:

<http://www.animalrightscoaliton.com>

If you don't know who your legislators are, go to:

<http://geo.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/districts/start.html>

The Committee to Restore Peace to the Mourning Dove, a group of volunteers working on this issue, met once a month during the past winter. The group is planning to start meeting again in either July or August. If you are interested in attending the meetings, please call Linda at 612-822-2720 for more information. 🐦



Over 200 people attended the Mourning for Mourning Doves Vigil, which ARC co-sponsored, at the State Capitol on 8/31/04

Urge Your Legislators to Vote NO on a Coyote Bounty in Minnesota

Fueled by ignorance and misinformation, a plan is in the works to place a bounty on the killing of coyotes in Minnesota, allowing counties to go back in time to the days when people tried, without success, to manage wildlife through a bounty system.

There are many misconceptions in our society about coyotes. People think of them as large, wolf-like predators that prey on livestock and cause hardship to humans. The truth about coyotes is very different. Coyotes are highly social dogs that mate for life and maintain family territories. The average-sized adult coyote is about the size of a Shetland Sheepdog (sheltie), weighing, on average, between 24 and 40 pounds. Coyotes consume a large amount of vegetation – about 40% of a coyote's diet is made up of vegetables, berries, and grasses. They are also effective scavengers, feeding on the carcasses of any dead animal they encounter. Their primary diet is composed of small animals like mice, rats, voles, and rabbits.

Not only is the premise that there is a need to control coyotes based on ignorance, evidence suggests that bounties are an expensive and ineffective way to try to control animal populations. In some cases, bounties can even cause an increase in the animal population they were implemented to control. And when bounties are placed on animals like coyotes, it increases the risk that companion animals will be shot.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Contact your State Representatives and Senators and tell them to **VOTE NO** to any bill that would place a bounty on coyotes. 🐾

Memorials

In memory of Ginger Shaw

Ginger was a staunch champion for animals and devoted her life to them. She will be remembered warmly and with gratitude by all in the Minnesota animal rights community. She always quietly worked hard for the voiceless and always had a few choice words against human indifference and cruelty.



Keep Your Companion Safe This Summer

Don't leave companion animals in parked cars. Every summer, animals left in cars suffer brain damage and die from heatstroke. On a warm day, even with the windows cracked, the temperature in a car can reach 120° in a matter of minutes. Dogs and cats can't perspire and can only dispel heat by panting and through the pads of their feet. If you see an animal in a parked car during the summer, call local animal control or the police.

Don't take your companion animals to crowded summer events such as concerts or fairs. The loud noises and crowds, combined with the heat, can be stressful and dangerous. Keep your companions indoors in a quiet, sheltered area on the Fourth of July.

Vegan Potatoes au Gratin

Ingredients:

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2-3 potatoes, sliced
- 1/2 cup vegan margarine
- 1/2 cup flour
- 3 1/2 cups boiling water
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- Pinch of turmeric
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1 cup nutritional yeast
- Paprika

Pre-heat oven to 350°.

Put potatoes and onion in pot of water. Boil for 5 minutes. Drain and set aside.

In a saucepan, melt margarine over low heat. Beat in flour with a whisk. Continue to beat over medium flame until mixture is smooth and bubbly. Beat in boiling water, salt, soy sauce, garlic powder, and turmeric. Stir well to dissolve the flour mixture. The sauce should cook until it thickens and bubbles. Whip in oil and nutritional yeast.

In a casserole dish put a layer of potatoes/onions. Spread "cheese" sauce on potatoes/onions. Add another layer, add more cheese, repeat. Cover and bake for 15 minutes. Uncover and bake for 5 more minutes. 🐾

BECOME AN ARC MEMBER

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Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$35 | Basic Annual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 | Patron Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 | Benefactor Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$1000 | Lifetime Membership |
| | _____ | Other donation |

Your membership dues are tax deductible. Send your check or money order payable to: Animal Rights Coalition, Inc., P.O. Box 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) _____

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*For 25 years ARC has been dedicated to ending
the suffering, abuse, and exploitation of non-human animals
through information, education, and advocacy.*

