



## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2011

### PRESS RELEASE

A recent statement made by Andries Venter, Chief Inspector of the SPCA in the Cape needs clarifying. He publicly stated that animals have more rights than children in South Africa, due to the difficulties he faced when trying to find a foster home for a child. It was easier to re-home the young boy's dog, which led him to make this irresponsible and inaccurate statement.

Animals in South Africa are, within the law, movable property, so they have no rights. They certainly do not have the right not to be exploited by us, perhaps the most important of all. The Animal Protection Act mostly excludes farm animals and animals in research facilities as human wants outweighs any consideration for animal suffering, both mentally and physically. Animals are and can be used for our entertainment, décor, food, clothing and however else we choose, with certain legal limits, depending on the so called 'importance' of the animal in question and human wants.

As far as animal welfare bodies go, all are run on public funding, they get not a penny from government and many are supported by unpaid volunteers and there is seldom, if ever, word of funds going missing, mismanagement or neglect. They run well organized and efficient systems on next to nothing and manage to do a sterling job with limited funding and no assistance, often not from the police either (Fridays incident of the Metro Police behaviour and attitude resulting in the death of an elderly man's longtime canine companion is a case in point) The same cannot always be said, regarding well run, organized and efficient systems, for the government (tax) assisted children's homes. As with all in need, demand outstrips available supply and with the red tape that I feel sure is standard, immediate satisfaction in assisting a child is doubtless a drawn out and unhappy affair.

To imply that children have fewer rights than animals is a blatant falsehood,. It is furthermore extremely irresponsible when society's apathy, cruelty and neglect is the reason we need animal welfare agencies at all! The City's refusal to implement mandatory sterilization of animals, apparently based on not interfering with people's 'property' rights, has resulted in many thousands of unwanted, stray and feral cats and dogs being killed to reduce numbers, using the delicate phrase 'put to sleep.' The Province's seeming unwillingness to subsidize sterilization for domestic animals further aggravates the problem.

That any child should be in need of care is a tragedy and a shame we all share. Let us not cast aside the care of non-human animals because of the injustices that children may suffer. They are not mutually exclusive, as they are both innocents who need help, due to a largely apathetic, irresponsible and selfish Society. (published Weekend Argus 25 Feb and [www.itimes.co.za](http://www.itimes.co.za) 1 March)



Beauty Without Cruelty  
Defending Animal Rights

**YOU CAN SUPPORT US HERE**

## **METRO POLICE HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR HUMANE EDUCATION**

Johannesburg Metro police allegedly forced Giel van der Merwe to wait for 20 minutes at a road block, while his dog, having possibly suffered a stroke, lay in the back of the bakkie suffering. He was told that "dogs don't count." El, the Boerbul companion of Mr Giel van der Merwe, later died. Randburg SPCA manager Mandy Cattanach confirmed that the officials had prolonged El's suffering with their behaviour.

This incident has, in our view, highlighted the importance of mandatory humane education for law enforcement as well as at all schools. This is the key to changing people's attitudes towards animals. Animals have lives that are meaningful to them and although they may be different from humans, that does not mean they are inferior or of less value. All life is valuable and BWC promotes respect and consideration for all species.

Please mail Heather Howe in Cape Town ([heatherhowe@mweb.co.za](mailto:heatherhowe@mweb.co.za)) or Denis Fajans in Johannesburg ([DennisF@joburg.org.za](mailto:DennisF@joburg.org.za)) to arrange a free, age suitable, interactive presentation on the Beauty Without Cruelty concept at your child's school.

## **BWC FUNDRAISER IN CAPE TOWN**

A successful fund raising evening at the Baxter Theater in Cape Town included a goodie bag for participants, with skin / body care from Charlotte Rhys, Innox and Pure Essentials, to whom we owe grateful thanks for their kindness. BWC merchandise was sold. The show, Mummenshanz, is a most entertaining and different, three decade strong, Swiss pantomime group.



Supporters Beyers Nel and Chrischelle Hanekom of Stellenbosch with Toni Brockhoven and Peggi Kensley

The 2<sup>nd</sup> April will see the BWC stand at the fabulous Durbanville Craft Market, in Wellington Road, which is hosting an animal awareness day with various animal charities, along with the extraordinary hand crafted wares on offer, where BWC merchandise and Compassion magazine will be available. Please support us and the market!

## **BWC ON RADIO**

Just Ice on Radio 2000 interviewed BWC on the issue of sentience, animal rights and the importance of humane education, regarding the incident of Metro police denying and elderly gent the opportunity to get his dog to the vet immediately, at a Jhb roadblock.

Beauty Without Cruelty is also on Voice of the Cape from 8-9pm during March and will be discussing issues such as Foie Gras, vivisection and cosmetic testing and other relevant animal exploitation issues. These may be heard on the website in due course.

## **NO FOIE GRAS CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

We are delighted to announce that Blonde, in Hatfield Street, Cape Town, part of the Beluga / Sevruga group and the hugely popular Willoughby's and Co at the V&A Waterfront have made the decision to remove foie gras from their menu / shelves with immediate effect. The NFG campaign applauds their pro-active move toward a more compassionate stance and encourages all supporters to visit these establishments. Further enquiries revealed that Emily's at the Waterfront and Myoga at the Vineyard Hotel had also removed Foie Gras from their menus some time ago, a fact of which we were only

recently aware. We thank Mike Basset for informing us of his decision and both Myoga and Emily's have been removed from the Wall of Shame. Please visit [www.nfgsa.co.za](http://www.nfgsa.co.za) for the updated Wall of Shame and Celebrity Supporters.

Giovanni's in Greenpoint saw supporters turn out on one of summer's hottest days in mid February to show their displeasure at the ongoing Foie Gras sales at the deli. They say 'everyone sells it' which is both untrue and irrelevant. What about moral /ethical/ compassionate guidelines?



One guest house, 18 on Crox in Greenpoint, has taken a firm stand that they will no longer refer their guests to any venue who sells Foie Gras in any form.

Vineyard Deli (Kenridge, Durbanville) owner, Linda Das Neves, stated that 'she will sell anything her customer's want' in answer to a request that consideration be given to the immense suffering of the birds. It was made clear that the NFG campaign manager 'is pestering her' – this comment regarding three requests over a period of a year, and that we have no right to tell her what to sell. In that, at least, Linda is correct. What we *have* done is created awareness of the inherent suffering and followed up on this, in the hopes that a decision would be made to stock less cruel items. Clearly, compassion has no place at Giovanni's, Vineyard or Newport Delis, who have thus far declined communication, and we urge readers to support those venues on our supporter's page instead, who have taken the pledge and/or removed Foie Gras, which includes Melissa's Fine Foods, Blonde and Willoughby's and Co.

### **MYNIE GROVÈ TAKES THE NO FOIE GRAS PLEDGE**



Mynie, local singer, TV Personality, Songwriter/ Composer, Publisher, Producer, Music Business Activist, Business Developer, Mentor and Life Coach has this to say to the NFG campaign;

*'I am intrigued by the intricacies of cooking, the science of taste and how our bodies and minds respond to it. Second to breathing food is our most important source of existing, so how can we POSSIBLY enjoy a 'delicacy' that is SO unnaturally and abusively created? There is NOTHING civilised or even remotely refined about Foie Gras!'*

### **KATE MIDDLETON RISKS HER POPULARITY BY EATING FOIE GRAS**

Kate, fiancée of Prince William, risked not only the wrath of her future father-in-law by lunching on foie gras, which he chose to ban from royal menus three years ago, but the ire of all decent people everywhere who abhor Foie Gras. Prince Charles had imposed the ban on Foie Gras due to the cruel way it is produced.

### **RESEARCH ANIMALS WILL BE FOCUS**

At a committee meeting held in Johannesburg recently the decision was made that BWC will focus attention on vivisection and cosmetic testing for the next year or two, an immense subject with several



facets that requires dedicated energies. While animal exploitation in all forms is abhorrent, this remains the core of what Beauty Without Cruelty is about.

We urge supporters to make use of the free guide to humane household and personal care on our website, [www.bwcsa.co.za/downloads](http://www.bwcsa.co.za/downloads) and to use only those products endorsed by BWC as being truly humane, or the Leaping Bunny list (also on our website) which is an internationally accepted standard. While one cannot (yet) choose humane options for health care, as even homeopathic remedies have undergone animal research, one can choose to make humane decisions while having a spotless home and looking glamorous and gorgeous.

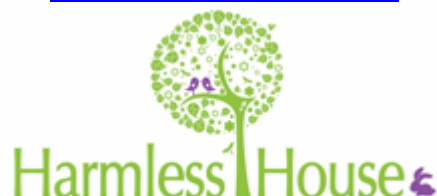
## **NEW ONLINE STORE SELLS AMERICAN BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY RANGE**

Harmless House, a new venture by Kate Townsend, will carry the following ranges that are Leaping Bunny approved, an international standard of humane status for suitably endorsed products, which Beauty Without Cruelty SA recognises.

BWC- [www.beautywithoutcruelty.com](http://www.beautywithoutcruelty.com) Leaping Bunny approved

Eco-Dent: [www.eco-dent.com](http://www.eco-dent.com) Leaping Bunny approved

[www.harmlesshouse.co.za](http://www.harmlesshouse.co.za)



An on-line account can be set up for regular on line purchases. While the Beauty Without Cruelty skin care range is separate from BWC SA, a % of all sales of this range will be donated to us, courtesy of Kate. Her tenacity and drive to pursue a humane lifestyle in everything she does, while supporting a cause she believes firmly in must surely bring the success she so surely deserves. The other ranges on offer include Sanctum, endorsed by Choose Cruelty Free Australia and the UK based Vegan Society and The Environmental Toothbrush.

## **SHEEP ARE SMART!**

Sheep have generally been accepted as being the most dim-witted of animals, however new research reveals they are far more intelligent than they have previously been given credit for.

Scientists at the University of Cambridge have concluded that sheep have the brainpower to equal rodents, monkeys and, in some tests, even humans. It appears that that sheep have relatively advanced learning capabilities, are adaptable, can map out their surroundings mentally and may even be able to plan ahead. Professor Jenny Morton, a neuroscientist at University of Cambridge, said sheep have a reputation for being extremely dim and their flock behaviour seems to confirm it. They are, however, amenable to testing and performed at a level very similar to monkeys and humans in the initial learning tasks. When the test rules were changed they still performed as well as monkeys and better than rodents.

Sadly, this is not in their favour, as Professor Morton, whose research is published in the journal Public Library of Science One, was studying sheep intelligence in the hope that they may be useful as an animal model of Huntington's Disease, a neurodegenerative disorder that leads to dementia and affects muscle control.



Sheep can perform executive cognitive tasks that have never been shown to exist in any other large animals apart from monkeys.

Professor Morton has also conducted trials to test the spatial memory of sheep and found they are able to navigate by forming memories of their surrounding environments. Previous research at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge has shown that sheep

have the ability to recognise faces and react to different facial expressions.

They seem to have exchanged a reputation for dull wittedness for the research lab, without so much as a by your leave.

## ADVERTISING WITH BWC

Those companies who make a minimum R500 (tax deductible) donation will be advertised in the monthly newsletter for 2011 and appear in the Compassion magazine. Please send your EFT to [toni@bwcsa.co.za](mailto:toni@bwcsa.co.za) with company details and logo. *Please note that only companies who comply with our criteria will be accepted for advertisements, and we reserve the right to refuse applicants.*

## MEAT FREE MONDAYS

So many people are part of the MFM campaign – are you? You can make this the year to reduce or eliminate meat from your diet and enjoy the health benefits like significantly decreasing the likelihood of heart attacks and high blood pressure, for example.

Meat Free Mondays are an easy way to lower your own environmental impact and help ensure worldwide food security. Pledge your support for the Meat Free Monday campaign, a Fry's initiative, in association with BWC and others.

Also, you can support us with your purchase of a shopper, bracelet or recipe booklet. [www.supportmfm.co.za](http://www.supportmfm.co.za)

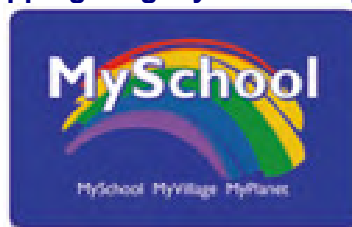


*There are great recipes using Fry's in the BWC Living Without Cruelty cookbook!*

## MERCHANDISE

Visit <http://www.bwcsa.co.za/merch> and see how easy it is to order our fabulous Living Without Cruelty cookbook, blank cards or tee shirts.

**Please support BWC while shopping- to get your free My Village loyalty card, click here**



*If you need to update your details so you can add us as a beneficiary without losing your current beneficiary, please contact 0860 100 445. For a list of other partners in your area where you can swipe your card when you shop, please click here*

## OUR SUPPORTERS



AVATARA VEGETARIAN / VEGAN GUEST HOUSE

[www.avatara.co.za](http://www.avatara.co.za) [info@avatara.co.za](mailto:info@avatara.co.za) Tel+27 (0)21 433 0341 Fax+27 (0)21 433 0138

	<b>DRAKENSTEIN LION PARK</b> A Sanctuary for Captive Born Predators <a href="http://www.lionrescue.co.za">www.lionrescue.co.za</a> Open daily from 09h30 to 17h00 (closed 25th Dec) Feeding Times Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 16h00. Admission R45 for adults and R25 for children.
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[www.lionrescue.org.za](http://www.lionrescue.org.za)



[www.frysvegetarian.co.za](http://www.frysvegetarian.co.za)



[www.stellarorganics.com](http://www.stellarorganics.com)



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