



Everything Important Left Unspoken in Elections – As Always, Needed Change Depends on a Determined Few

Campaigns, debates, news – nothing said about worst-possible food policy, endless war, ever more poverty, disease, suicide, eco-destruction, animal abuse. Striking at their common root is the solution, but that means doing what seems impossible: reversing the Biocaust.

By David Cantor

Neither a candidate nor a public officeholder can propose remedies to the Biocaust – our species' millennia-long assault on nonhuman animals and the living world – because the human economy is rooted in it and depends on its continuing. News avoids the topic as a "third rail." How would consumer-capitalism fare without tree-killing, fuel-burning, toxic chemicals, weapons, and animal-abuse industries such as meat, pets, fish, and "pest" control?

But the Biocaust is the root cause of nearly all human misery. As long as it is not addressed, and as long as the human population continues to grow, we should expect humans to suffer more, regardless of pseudo-solutions proffered by candidates and officials for self-promotion. Let's consider animal abuse as a root cause of war, disease, and poverty. Then we can understand why teaching the perceptions and concepts linked to equal rights of all animals – not flailing away at each atrocity – is the way to needed change.

WAR. *The Animal-Abuse Revolution began linking killing to status tens of*

thousands of years ago. An unnatural practice based on manufactured hatred, weapons, and rationalization, war starts with humans' organizing to kill the most feared nonhuman animals, then the most bothersome ones, then humans designated as enemies and "predators" and portrayed as less than human.

Humans are naturally respectful toward others, especially when they know them as humans knew each other and countless nonhuman animals in their original lifeway on the African savanna. Humans are natural plant-foraging herbivores, their bodies having no natural killing equipment. Manufactured weapons and hunting are innovations which altered the entire course of human existence and doomed countless living beings and species.

The aggressive status-seekers who created the Animal-Abuse Revolution by manufacturing weapons and organizing to kill their natural predators made it seem acceptable to kill animals just because we fear them. That is the beginning of demagoguery, which down to our time continues to teach that those we fear are unworthy of life and that killing them is an altruistic or heroic act.

Warfare long subjected horses, camels, even elephants to terror and horrible injury and death. Armies target enemies' cattle, sheep, goats, and other nonhuman animals long enslaved under the Agricultural Revolution. Bombing, landmines, testing and deploying chemical and nuclear weapons and defoliants like Agent Orange – none of it could happen if animal abuse weren't authorized, routinized, and institutionalized.

DISEASE. *All of our species' direct contact with nonhuman animals is unnatural and harmful to humans as well as to the other animals. Nearly all devastating infectious-disease epidemics of the past 10,000 years come from enslaving, breeding, skinning, and butchering nonhuman animals. Most lethal non-communicable disease is linked to eating from animals as humans are natural plant-foraging herbivores.*

Most bacteria and viruses that have visited agony and wasted human populations for thousands of years came to human beings in the first place from animal abuse – from the unnatural contact humans have forced on nonhuman animals by

Campaign K-12 White Paper Launches

Document addresses conundrum: How do we reach young people so longstanding animal-abuse policy and practice will cease and Biocaust can be reversed?
By David Cantor

This fall, Responsible Policies for Animals completed and mailed to all 50 states' education departments the first known white paper outlining how the K-12 school system can incorporate up-to-date biological knowledge to reduce animal abuse and restore the living world.

Schooling for Life: How K-12 Schools Can Help End Our Species' Millennia-Long Animal-Abuse Policy, Annihilation of Nature, and Resulting Human Misery outlines the biological reality children most need to learn to reduce the harm our species does; explains the importance of knowing what kind of animal we are; and mentions key sources for K-12 instructors, administrators, and curriculum designers.

Crucial Advocacy Innovation

A fatal shortcoming of conventional animal advocacy is that it nibbles at the margins of the vast scope of abuse humans perpetrate on nonhuman animals, leaving root causes unaddressed. It is like trying to extinguish a fire by blowing out flames while ignoring the white-hot embers that generate them.

The animal-advocacy machine

tells people to be kind to animals, shop and eat with nonhuman animals in mind, help animals in desperate need, and report cruelty to animals. But K-12 schooling teaches children to take part in a civilization that kills and destroys far more rapidly than nonprofit organizations and their followers can catch up with.

Children need to know that what we humans depend on, how we make a living and subsist, does incalculable harm to others – and that it is all unnatural. Then they can begin to create remedies and end dependency where previous generations have failed. *Schooling for Life* departs from standard advocacy by striking at the roots of animal abuse: ignorance, inattention, distraction, and indoctrination.

Teaching Abusive Lifeways

Schools keep children focused on home, school, and other institutions, preparing them to find a niche in civilization, the artificial world in which humans live. Such a focus ignores impacts of our lifeways on other animals and the rest of the living world, falsely implying that the status quo is ethical and necessary.

Many of my experiences as a long-time animal advocate showed me that K-12 schooling has never ensured that children know and respect the living world. A graduate of a "blue-ribbon" high school didn't know the species names of any birds who'd lived on and around the house he grew up in. A fifteen-year-old in an affluent community told me her high school "really doesn't teach us evolution."

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An influential business owner told me, "I know I didn't descend from no monkeys."

Contrary to what the consumer-capitalist system teaches children, the future of life depends on their learning that Earth is not a playground.

We Must Do Better

In a context of institutionalized, rote disregard of nonhuman animals and the living world, it is unimaginable for nonprofit organizations with less authority than children's teachers and parents to reduce animal abuse and suffering. There can be no remedy as long as schools reinforce the age-old animal-abuse paradigm.

"K-12 schooling teaches children to take part in a civilization that kills and destroys"

We harbor no illusions that state K-12 systems mired in bureaucracy, careerism, and conservative and reactionary beliefs will quickly verse children in long-suppressed biological reality. But Responsible Policies for Animals will distribute *Schooling for Life* among a great range of educational associations, publications, educators, reporters, parents, and officials. As it becomes clear that all in the paper is established knowledge and that ignorance of it has terrible consequences, we expect more and more teachers to consider *Schooling for Life* in their teaching. It will also be available at www.RPAforAll.org.

Got kids? Know teachers? Tell RPA if you would like copies of *Schooling for Life*. ★

Why Shopping Choices Can't Do the Job

A mainstay of the animal-advocacy machine, "humane" shopping choices cannot help animals or make progress toward justice.

By David Cantor

I've been vegan – purchasing and using nothing known to be made from or tested on nonhuman animals – for twenty-seven years, the same amount of time I've been a full-time animal advocate. I also minimize all purchases, travel, fuel use, and venturing into places where free-living animals live mostly without humans. I live this way out of *conscience* – not a misconception that my doing so helps animals, reduces animal abuse, or advances needed policy change.

However, respected authorities, including some of my mentors, persist in telling people "humane" choices help animals and change industries. Some even believe "vegan spirituality" – gathering with other vegans, doing yoga, and drumming (sans animal skins) – can somehow, apparently by magic, reduce the number of animals used for food and spread veganism among lots of people. Tempting as it is to believe, it is not true. It seduces because it appears to exempt us from struggle and severe moral injury inflicted by our culture, and it engenders positive feelings, no doubt releasing endorphins as whenever we express altruism or compassion.

The human population is rapidly growing, nearly every human being born into a family that eats from animals and shops with no regard for nonhuman animals' suffering. Meat consumption is increasing in

China, India, and other large countries. Russia is at this moment instituting cowboy culture and its own beef industry! In "Meat as a Bad Habit," Joshua Frank explains scientifically why very few people presented with facts about animal abuse, human disease, and eco-destruction linked to meat discard the terrible diet they are conditioned to from birth.

A "vegan spirituality" factsheet at a large organization's website makes this bizarre claim: "By taking the vow of ahimsa, of nonviolence and love, also known as veganism, you have demonstrated what it is to live a spiritual life – one in which your heartfelt beliefs are in synch with the way you live." Veganism is what I say above; it is not the same as ahimsa or "nonviolence and love." In addition, humans are spiritual by nature, regardless of how kind or consistent they are.

Even more crucial: No one in civilization can live without harming nonhuman animals, no matter how nonviolent or loving. Merely being vegan does not end our complicity in civilization's animal-abuse policy and practice. If you live in a building, its materials come from destruction of other animals' homes. All manufacturing and fuel use harms nonhuman animals. Obtaining plant foods through agriculture entails massive assaults on nonhuman animals' natural homes, on animals designated as "pests," and on animals devastated by toxic agrichemicals. Humans' natural lifeway is foraging, not farming.

Responsible Policies for Animals urges people concerned about the plight of nonhuman animals, human beings, and the web of life to support and take part in RPA's long-term campaigns designed to strike at the root of the Biocaust and to establish equal rights of all animals. This involves constant political engagement, dedication to others, putting oneself on the line, managing conflict, disagreement, and ostracism – all the difficult experience involved in promoting a radical political proposal.

Be vegan, yes. Substitute veganism for action, no. ★

continued from page 1

capturing, breeding, and slaughtering them and exploiting them for labor, service, and companionship. Human beings are plant-foraging herbivores by nature, so it is not surprising that eating from animals can clog arteries, leach calcium from bones, increase risk of some cancers, and otherwise sabotage humans' physical health.

Much mental illness also results from humans' living unnaturally, departing over thousands of years from the lifeway they evolved to anticipate and thrive in. Humans evolved to live in extended-family ("tribal") societies with direct experience of vegetation, soil, and a great variety of animals, not in artificial surroundings with mediated experience or in mass societies of broken, scattered families.

“[T]he Biocaust is the root cause of nearly all human misery.”

None of the talk of expanding or eliminating Obamacare addresses civilization's disease-generating systems, institutions, and industries that make nearly everyone ill or extremely distressed. People with medical "insurance" are not insured, most "plans" costing so much and covering so little. The root meaning of "health" is *wholeness*, not merely the absence of symptoms. Humans, the other animals, and the web of life deserve health, but policy needed to restore it is not yet on the public agenda. Only addressing the root of disease - animal abuse - can change that.

POVERTY. *Poverty is generated by civilization's extreme inequality and the ability of a tyrannical few to prevent the many from meeting their basic needs. The weaponed class which became established through the Animal-Abuse*

Revolution became the tyrant class which channels Earth's wealth to itself through the labor, unemployment, and desperation of the rest.

Poverty is a human innovation, built on the unnatural trajectory toward permanent overpopulation and tyrannical economic systems set in motion by the Animal-Abuse and Agricultural Revolutions, the sweeping prehistoric socio-technological innovations which inform civilization to the present time. Human beings' and other animals' natural lifeway, where they "have nothing," is not poverty. Poverty and insecurity of the many are a function of accumulation of private wealth and property by the few. This would be impossible without economic systems based on animal abuse and annihilation of nature - the Biocaust.

Agriculture depends on perpetuating the Animal-Abuse Revolution by killing predators and intensifying it by killing animals drawn to crops and stored food. With 10,000 years of momentum, and with 7.5 billion humans today as compared with 5 million when agriculture began, no wonder human poverty is so vast and intractable. The "war on poverty" failed because it didn't eradicate the long-instilled belief that some beings are more worthy of justice, fulfillment, and self-determination than others. As long as human-supremacist and speciesist ideologies guide human affairs, poverty, homelessness, starvation, and food and water insecurity will remain the policy.

This Is Overwhelming! What To Do?!

Obviously, the task of reversing the Biocaust is beyond daunting - not because we lack the necessary knowledge and ability but because the Biocaust is fueled by tens of thousands of years of momentum; 7.5 billion apes indoctrinated into humanism, speciesism, carnism, and other Biocaust ideologies; and thousands of institutions - schools, colleges, universities, news and

Internet venues, churches, civic and youth groups, political parties, trade and professional associations - that reinforce false and harmful beliefs about humans and other animals every minute of every day.

“Poverty and insecurity of the many are a function of accumulation of private wealth and property by the few.”

To the extent that we can face the situation head-on, abandon time-wasting and wheel-spinning endeavors that only address symptoms, forego a certain amount of entertainment and pointless social media, and zero in on root causes, we can create the radical perceptual and conceptual paradigm shift linked to equal rights of all animals, the only policy capable of reducing injustice, tyranny, and misery.

Responsible Policies for Animals' campaigns provide opportunities to take part. Explore Campaigns at www.RPAforAll.org. Talk to me about how to help. ★

Thank you for supporting Responsible Policies for Animals, the only organization promoting equal rights of all animals the way equal rights of new groups of persons become established.