

## Congratulations, RPA Members!

### Victory for Goldfish!

Last time, *Thin Ice* reported how concerned residents of Glenview, Illinois, got their town's long-standing annual Goldfish Day revamped in 2004: Instead of being forced into a chlorinated swimming pool with children thrashing about seeking to capture them, goldfish were placed in non-chlorinated water from which children were permitted to scoop them.

RPA member Debby Rubenstein, a talented activist and Glenview resident reports, "Goldfish Day was permanently cancelled - this year was the first time in approximately 50 years that the event wasn't held."

Congratulations to Debby and the other Glenview friends whose efforts will prevent hundreds of fish each year from suffering!

### Victory for Dogs!

RPA member Joel Freedman of Canandaigua, New York, succeeded in working with the City Council to pass a new ordinance prohibiting tying up dogs outdoors for more than 16 hours in a 24-hour period. Of course, dogs should not be tied up at all. But as Joel told the Canandaigua *Daily Messenger*, "I'm hopeful that the

amount of time a dog cannot be tethered will induce owners to change the way they treat their dogs. Maybe they won't even tether at all because they will come around to realizing dogs belong inside our homes and inside our hearts as part of our families."

The new law, the first of its kind in the State of New York, took effect in October 2005. Congratulations to Joel - and to the Canandaigua City Council for doing the right thing! ★

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#### What Can You Do?!

Please consider arranging for RPA to give a presentation in your area - give out our contact information or have RPA send information. We'll enjoy working with you and any school, civic, professional or religious group.

RPA tailors its talks to the needs of each group. Remember: *Hardly anyone knows what animal rights is.* So RPA can help wherever people gather, learn, and discuss what affects their lives. By bringing RPA to your community, you'll benefit animal rights, RPA, and your neighbors and friends. ★

**Thank you for supporting Responsible Policies for Animals!  
Reversing thousands of years of speciesist ideology and animal exploitation and abuse is no easy task. Together, we can make it happen!**

*Educating leaders for a humane future.*

Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc.  
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# Thin Ice\*

**RPA**  
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## 10,000 Years Is Enough Campaign Goes to Washington

On November 14, 2005, at the Washington (D.C.) Hilton Hotel, Responsible Policies for Animals (RPA) held the first-ever public protest of university "animal science" programs.

The occasion was the annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities & Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the oldest U.S. higher-education association with hundreds of member schools. The action advances RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign aimed at getting universities out of the flesh, milk, and egg business.

### Universities Mis-Educating

"Animal science" is a misleading term our land-grant universities (LGUs) use for the billions of dollars' worth of training, research, and public relations they provide each year for the flesh, milk, and egg industries.

Not having to pay their own way as they should, the flesh, milk, and egg industries have revenues available for vast, pervasive advertising and public-relations campaigns - mainstays of the industries.

By its very existence, "animal science" promotes flesh, milk, and egg consumption, giving the false impression that eating "animal products" is based on science. The practice began tens of thousands of years before empirical science. "Animal science" also perpetuates false notions that humans "evolved as hunter-gatherers" - a common rationalization for "meat"-eating.

Likewise, "animal science" programs have built-in incentives for experts to deny or downplay the serious human-health and ecosystem damage and resource waste linked to the flesh, milk and egg industries.

### 10,000 Years Is Enough

At the November 14th protest on Washington's busy Connecticut Avenue, RPA handed out leaflets to university administrators and government officials participating in the NASULGC meeting, to hotel management and security personnel hoping RPA would go away, and to passersby - while displaying a banner that read, "**Our land-grant universities' assignment: Serve the public, not the flesh, milk, and egg industries!**"

Hundreds of people read the banner from cars on the crowded thoroughfare. Some pedestrians said, "Thank you," or, "Keep up the good work."

Launching the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign in 2003, RPA has sent more than 200 letters, 150 factsheets, and 50 books to NASULGC and to LGUs in all 50 states. Twenty of the 50 universities have replied, some repeatedly. NASULGC has never answered. RPA will continue in its professional and respectful requests that NASULGC face the most urgent problem in education today: "animal science."

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## RPA Gets Grant, Gets the Word Out

As reported in *Thin Ice* Spring-Summer 2005, the Sam's Club Foundation awarded Responsible Policies for Animals a \$1,000.00 grant to help RPA publicize its community education program. On June 30, 2005, RPA Executive Director David Cantor took part in the check-giving ceremony at the nearby Sam's Club.

With a sizeable crowd assembled and the Color Guard in formation, an announcer at a lectern named in turn each grant-receiving organization - a fire department, a children's organization, RPA, and others - whose representative stepped forward to hold a giant check for the cameras.

The Greater Glenside Chamber of Commerce, which recommended RPA for the grant, included in its October 2005 newsletter a photograph of Cantor with RPA's giant check.

### Not Letting Grass Grow

Soon after the check-giving ceremony, RPA prepared two items whose copying and distribution the grant made possible: a *Community Education Presentations* flier and a letter to accompany the flier.

In time for two tabling events RPA had signed up for (see "While Campaigning ..."), the organization also prepared a factsheet with an annotated animal rights book list on one side and on the other an explanation of students' and teachers' obligation to learn about animal rights - since state public-school curricula exclude animal rights.

### Early Results

RPA has sent the new fliers with letters to several hundred teachers throughout the Philadelphia area. Most of them would not otherwise receive a direct request from an animal rights organization to consider the need for animal rights education and to arrange presentations for their classes.

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\*RPA's newsletter, *Thin Ice*, gets its name from the ethical "thin ice" on which practices that harm nonhuman animals stand and the literal thin ice preventing some polar bears from obtaining food due to human practices. Polar bears feed by positioning themselves at holes in the ice and reaching into the water to seize prey. Our species' warming of Earth's climate has thinned the ice: It won't support enough weight at some feeding sites, so some bears are going hungry.

## While Campaigning ...

*While working to advance the 10,000 Years Is Enough campaign to end our land-grant universities' service to the flesh, milk, and egg business and RPA's This Land Is Their Land campaign to protect wildlife, RPA has been pleased to advance animal rights in many other ways.*

☞ From July 7th till July 11th, Cantor gave four presentations, coordinated a rap session, and managed RPA's exhibit at the national conference AR2005, in Los Angeles. "It was wonderful to see long-time friends and to meet so many people dedicated to ending animal abuse," Cantor says. "The conference was a great opportunity for RPA to explain its innovative campaigns, sign up new members, add people to the e-mail list, give out free RPA factsheets, and receive donations."

☞ On August 31st, Cantor ran RPA's exhibit at the Arcadia University Business Fair (Glenside, Pennsylvania), organized by the Greater Glenside Chamber of Commerce. Meeting many students, some teachers and administrators, and a librarian amidst exhibits of banks, restaurants, gift shops, and a workout club, Cantor got the chance to explain animal rights as a principle that businesses of all kinds will need to adopt if nonhuman animals are going to be treated humanely in our society.

Among the RPA factsheets picked up by visitors to the exhibit: *How Businesses Can Help Animals*. Many students signed up for RPA's e-mail list, and some took time to ask questions about animal abuse or explain their interest in animals.

☞ At the Upper Merion Community Fair, on September 10th in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, RPA's exhibit explaining animal rights and RPA's campaigns drew questions and some puzzled looks. The organization's mailing and e-mail lists grew, and its literature supply shrank – as planned!

☞ On October 25, 2005, Cantor gave a presentation at Penn State Abington College titled *Animal Rights: What America Needs Most*. "I wanted to connect things related to the animals' plight that are usually treated as separate matters," Cantor explains. The talk drew people from the surrounding community as well as students and others from campus. It elicited some good questions and positive comments.

☞ Cantor often attends meetings not specifically about animal abuse and exploitation. A state representative's town meeting, a multiple-chamber-of-commerce breakfast with a U.S. Representative as the guest speaker, a Rotary Club meeting, a chamber-of-commerce business-card exchange: These and other gatherings provide opportunities for animal activists to meet people who need to know what animal rights is and to hear their concerns so we can communicate with them.

### In addition to its generous members and volunteers, RPA is ...

#### Staff

David Cantor, Executive Director

#### Board of Directors

David Cantor, President

Lynn Cummings, Esquire, Vice President & Acting Secretary

Rob Teti, D.V.M., Treasurer



Eric Hauser is RPA's webmaster.

*Thin Ice* is designed by Kristen K. Schada, Kirkland Printing, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.



Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc. (RPA), promotes responsible policies for animals that are also responsible policies for people and ecosystems. RPA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Anyone can become a member of RPA by donating \$15.00, and RPA appreciates and makes effective use of donations of any amount.



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♻️ *Thin Ice* is printed on recycled paper.

"Hard as it is for people to believe who devote hours each day to animals," Cantor says, "most people still don't know of anything amiss in the human-nonhuman animal relationship – that's how well animal abuse is hidden and how well people hide from it, not wanting to know. We have to be known in the human part of the world to be trusted to bring about radical change that is equitable and just." ★

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### What Can You Do?!

Persistence is needed to eliminate "animal science" classes – possibly the inherently uneconomical flesh, milk & egg industries' most important crutch. Please team up with RPA to make progress!

Start by contacting the LGU in your state – see the list at [www.RPAforAll.org](http://www.RPAforAll.org) or ask RPA – and NASULGC, 1307 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005; fax 202-478-6046. Just write a paragraph or two summarizing your reasons why they must do their part to eliminate "animal science." Ask RPA about additional steps to take.

**Turning off the animal-abuse machine is far more promising for the animals than forever mourning its victims. ★**

## Paws for Reflection

# Radical Change: The Only Hope for the Animals

About 40 years ago, at my grade school's annual fair, a lone white goat stood tethered to a stone structure. He had one thing in common with a nearby accumulation of inanimate objects: being donated to the fundraising auction that took place that day.

Thinking the goat looked lonely, I kept him company for a while. I didn't see anyone else take an interest in him. Seeing his picture today, I think I see in his face the sorrow of one who has lost his home and companions – my ethologist friends may correct me if I'm wrong. I didn't realize I was seeing a nonhuman animal's experience of an unjust system I would later dedicate myself to abolishing.

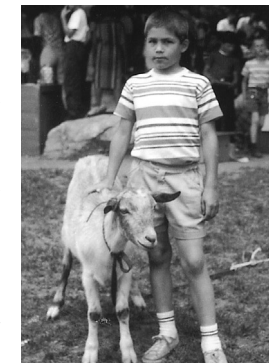
A couple of years before I met the goat, I adopted the second-grade rabbit so he wouldn't be sent to live among strangers. About four years after meeting the goat, I quit fishing forever upon seeing a fish I had released slowly sink, belly-up, gasping, no doubt suffering horrendously. Unable to speak, I continued to row the boat, hoping my friend who continued fishing wouldn't catch "anything."

Spotting from three floors up in a shopping bazaar a seagull pacing back & forth looking for a way out of car traffic on a busy Monterey, California, street, I asked the owner of the shop my family was browsing for a phone-book & phone to call the SPCA. I was 16. It wasn't long before I heard and felt the awful thud of an animal meeting sudden death beneath my own wheels.

It always made sense to me that people should not destroy nonhuman animals or make them suffer. But I belonged to a society that seemed to have decided other animals don't matter. Only 16 years ago, when I changed my occupation from teaching English at universities to advocating for nonhuman animals, did I begin to understand the systemic sociopolitical nature of suffering and destruction humans inflict on nonhumans.

I see now that only fundamental change – radical change – can end what I call the animal holocaust. No matter how much I care about animals I meet or find in distress, and no matter how much millions of other people also care, the animal holocaust will continue – and continue to grow – if we fail to establish basic legal rights for nonhuman animals. That and not merely helping animals as opportunities arise is the goal of the animal rights movement – and of Responsible Policies for Animals.

I've many times had rewarding experiences of rescuing individual animals, helping other people "save" animals, and getting large corporations to change animal-destroying practices. I haven't knowingly eaten an animal-derived molecule in the past 16 years. I am always pleased to know of improvements to the lives of the small number



Goat who "looked lonely" at school fair circa 1964, with David Cantor, now RPA's executive director.

of animals who can be helped while nonhumans have no legal rights. But I realize progress toward legal rights for nonhuman animals – the only likely way to slow the holocaust to a trickle – remains scant despite enormous, often exceptional talent and dedication at work for the animals and the searing grief and moral indignation we feel knowing animals are suffering at human hands in numbers too large to fully imagine.

Not privy to the workings and funding mechanisms of universities, corporations, government agencies, and other components of our mass society that grind away at nonhuman animals, people, and ecosystems until limits are firmly imposed, children naturally act based on their immediate feelings. A lonely goat, a shorebird in danger: I'll come to the rescue. Once we understand the system kills millions in the few minutes a child comforts one lonely goat, we know we must change fundamentally – radically – the institutions, ideologies, and incentives that drive the holocaust.

Even when the animals have the rights they deserve, many will require care from humans for a variety of reasons. But, in order for the care we give the animals to be more than a drop in a bucket with no bottom, we must end the holocaust: We must eliminate nonhuman animals' property status, establish their legal rights, and pull the plug on the animal-abuse machine that now operates worldwide 24/7.

**Thank you** for enabling Responsible Policies for Animals to seize a segment of that machine's cord. Please stay with us. The animals need you until the plug is pulled.

– David Cantor

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Upon receiving *Community Education Presentations* from RPA, a professor at Penn State Abington College – a campus of the land-grant university Penn State – phoned RPA and booked Cantor to give a talk open to the entire campus and the general public (see "While Campaigning ...").

A Glenside, Pennsylvania, businessperson arranged for Cantor to speak to his Rotary Club about animal rights on December 2nd.

Cantor is also scheduled to speak in January to a group of law students who advocate for nonhuman animals. Additional speaking arrangements are being made as we go to press, one not to take place until October 2006.



Executive Director David Cantor accepts grant to publicize RPA's community education program

RPA has also met with three high-school administrators we will not name at this time as informing young people about animal rights remains a sensitive matter with school personnel – an unfortunate fact RPA is working to change.

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