Persons

The Newsletter of Responsible Policies for Animals Vol. 12, No. 1 ★ Spring 2014

RPA to Universities: Stop Teaching Animal Abuse

It is impossible to reduce animal abuse when massive, revered institutions promote it.

Since the last issue of *Persons*, these are some of the actions Responsible Policies for Animals has taken in its **10,000 Years Is Enough campaign** to end the teaching of animal abuse at our massive network of agricultural colleges:

▶ Wrote letters to head trustees of the land-grant universities (LGUs) who failed to answer the comprehensive August 2013 mailing about the "animal science" travesty.

▶ Emailed, sent a letter and information to, and requested a meeting with the president of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities.

▶ Wrote letters to the 26 U.S. House and Senate leaders to whose Capitol Hill offices RPA delivered information packs on the "animal science" travesty in October 2013.

▶ Urged the U.S. representative of RPA's Congressional district to request action on the "animal science" travesty by the 26 House and Senate leaders RPA visited in October 2013 and followed up with in January 2014.

Crucial Long-Term Animal-Rights Campaign

The colleges of agriculture at our LGUs provide training, research, sales, and propaganda for the meat, dairy, fish, egg, and slaughter industries, and for other animal-abuse industries, through their "animal science" programs. "Animal Science" teaches the false and infinitely harmful beliefs that nonhuman animals are naturally inferior and subordinate to humans, are non-persons, and are healthful and natural sources of food for humans, masking the reality that humans' use of other animals for food and other purposes is, and has been for thousands of years, a humane, health, and ecological disaster.

"Humans' use of other animals for food and other purposes is … a humane, health, and ecological disaster."

Says RPA founder David Cantor, "It is not possible to make progress toward the equal rights all animals need for the chance at a fulfilling life while a massive network of revered universities teaches animal abuse and the false beliefs that fuel it."

See **www.RPAforAll.org** and past RPA newsletters for **10,000 Years Is Enough campaign** information, including published op-ed articles and letters, advertisements in major publications, and extensive communications directed at those who determine LGU policy.

What We Must Do

▶ Email **Association of Public and Land Grant Universities President Mr. M. Peter McPherson** at **pmcpherson@aplu.org**, urging him to meet with RPA founder David Cantor to discuss the "animal science" problem. Phone him at **202-478-6060**. Write to him at **1307 New York Avenue, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005**.

▶ Using convenient links at the **Campaigns** page of **www.RPAforAll.org**, urge your state governor and the president and the head trustee of your state's LGU to phase out "animal science." Governors are trustees of our LGUs and are responsible for animal, food, health, and environment policy.

▶ Work with RPA to organize a *stop-teaching-animal-abuse* presentation for your friends and community. ★

Note: *Agriculture is cultivation of fields; raising animals is not agriculture. There is no such thing as "animal agriculture."*

New-Animalism Lecture and Workshop

Ending animal abuse without squelching anti-animal ideology is like extinguishing a fire without dousing embers.

This April, Responsible Policies for Animals founder David Cantor lectured for the first time on *the new animalism*, a concept that occurred to him from studying how rights come to exist for new groups of persons. The new animalism debunks species bias so equal rights of all animals can be established as a concept in the human mind. "Nonhuman animals will remain without rights as long as they are deemed inferior beings," Cantor says.

In the workshop following the lecture, participants practiced and discussed how to apply the new animalism to animal-rights advocacy.

Comments about the first-ever new-animalism lecture & workshop were very positive. One participant compared it to the time she saw South African author & activist Alan Paton speak against apartheid.

The New Animalism versus Humanism

Religious and secular humanism reinforce civilization's overarching animal-abuse policy by teaching that humans are the only beings inherently worthy of respect, consideration, protection, or fulfillment and that all in nature, including other animals, exists for humans to use or dispense with.

The new animalism exposes humanism's glaring flaws, acknowledging the scientific reality that "the great chain of being" and other human-supremacist teachings are rationalizations for the animal abuse that started with prehistoric hunting cabals and ever since has expanded, diversified, and intensified with herding, agriculture, sedentary living, nonhuman-animal enslavement and breeding, human overpopulation, and ever-intensifying human technologies.

Consider: If human beings are "higher" forms of life than others, how is it that humans "descend from" others? If human beings are morally superior to other animals, how is it that countless quadrillions of nonhuman animals of countless species do so much to enhance "Earths' ecstatic layer," the topsoil, while our species mostly depletes it, contaminates it, suppresses its life-giving properties with roads and buildings – and even prevents human corpses from enhancing the soil as other animals' corpses do?

The New Animalism and Animal Rights

The new animalism promotes the perceptual shift needed to establish in the human mind and in nations' constitutions the equal autonomy, ecology, and dignity rights all animals need to lead fulfilling lives and maintain Earth's infinite web of life.

Beings deemed harmful, inferior, subordinate, subservient, or property – as humanism deems nonhuman animals – can never be protected against atrocities, cruelty, or stultifying oppression. Awareness of animals' emotions and intelligence does not promote the needed policy change, just as awareness of the same in human victims of eliminationist campaigns (pagans, Amerinds, Herero, Armenians, Jews, Roma, Serbs, Tutsis, Kurds, Chechens, and others)

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Persons, the newsletter of Responsible Policies for Animals, is designed by Rebecca Lotka.

Responsible Policies for Animals promotes guaranteed equal autonomy, ecology, and dignity rights of all animals. RPA has no salaried staff or directors. RPA members donate $25 or more and receive RPA's unique bumper sticker, newsletter, and Updates. On request, RPA considers ill, indigent, or imprisoned persons for donation-free honorary membership. Donate to RPA at www.RPAforAll.org or by mail.

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does not protect them when demagogues portray them as nonhuman animals deemed unworthy of life – "swine," "rodents," "cockroaches," "snakes,"….

"Beings deemed harmful, inferior, subordinate, … can never be protected against atrocities …."

"We must eradicate the superior-and-inferior-beings paradigm from the human mind," Cantor says, "as FDR understood the word "*reich*" would have to be eliminated from the German vocabulary after World War II.

What We Must Do

▶ Work with RPA to organize a new-animalism event for friends and members of your community or classes you teach or enroll in.

▶ Give RPA's brochure *Animal Abuse: The Whole Story* to friends, officials, and heads of universities, schools, civic, youth, and religious groups, and other institutions.

▶ Tell friends about Cantor's essay **"Beyond Humanism, Toward a New Animalism,"** due to appear in the book *Circles of Compassion: Connecting Issues of Justice* in coming months. Learn more about the book and order it at VeganPublishers.com. ★

"Responsible Policies for Animals works daily to debunk humanism, teaching the new animalism. What only benefits humans does not suffice: We must make policy comport with the common good of all animals."

– *Animal Abuse: The Whole Story*, RPA brochure (see "Free RPA Literature," page 4)

RPA Broadcast Interviews

Hear groundbreaking animal-rights concepts online!

On January 8th, John Gilmore, host of the Practical Spirituality Educational Forum at www.blogtalkradio.com, interviewed Responsible Policies for Animals founder David Cantor on animal rights and spirituality.

"[E]qual rights of all animals [are] a moral imperative like rights of human beings."

A few key points from the interview that are unique in animal advocacy and crucial to rights advocacy:

▶ Animal abuse, civilization's overarching policy, is dispiriting and demoralizing to human beings because humans have an innate affinity for other animals and the living world – *biophilia*.

▶ Though human beings are taught that they are the only spiritual beings, that belief is probably false. Evolution provides human beings with countless physical traits that originate in other animals. Mental experience is rooted in physical traits such as the senses and neurology. Other animals are moral beings, and morality is closely linked to spirituality.

▶ Animal abuse, including elimination of nonhuman animals' original nature through breeding, causes lifelong mental distress in animals, in addition to intense physical pain. So eliminating tyranny over nonhuman animals by establishing their equal rights is a moral imperative like rights of human beings.

On June 11th, Gilmore interviewed Cantor again – this time on *the new animalism*. Cantor elaborated on concepts like those outlined in "New-Animalism Lecture & Workshop," starting on page 2 of this issue of *Persons*.

Gilmore took part in RPA's first-ever new-animalism lecture & workshop – which no local "mainstream" reporter was willing to do. As Cantor said in the interview, if big-media broadcasters engaged in genuine intellectual inquiry like Gilmore - rather than just reinforcing conventional wisdom with each event deemed "newsworthy" – "our society would be making more progress toward the humane world that I envision." ★

Why Rights Are So Important

Without rights, there is no meaningful protection; without rights-promoting advocacy, nonhuman animals can never have rights.

The first wave of the "animal rights movement" does not promote *rights* but a variety of ways to *help* nonhuman animals who would not be suffering as they do if they had rights. Most animals whom advocates try to help would not even *exist* if nonhuman animals had

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rights' since most are property. Not being owned by another is a basic right which nonhumans lack. Being someone's property places one beyond help – always subject to one's owner's whim.

Responsible Policies for Animals founder David Cantor's review of *The PETA Practical Guide to Animal Rights* – read it at amazon.com – provides one of the best explanations of the crucial difference between helping others and working to establish equal rights of all.

What Rights Do and Don't Do

Rights are designed to eliminate *circumstances that generate injustice and tyranny* – mainly unjust intrusions into individual persons' lives. Rights are not designed to end interpersonal violence. When equal human rights became the basis of governance under the U.S. Constitution, laws against murder, assault, and rape had existed for thousands of years. They continued as before.

Rights established in Amendments I through X, XIII, XIV, XV, and XIX prohibit various conditions for tyranny, oppression, and the undermining of democracy. Amendment VIII's cruel-and-unusual-punishment ban is not an anticruelty law like those that outlaw a small portion of animal abuse. Rather, it is intended to safeguard human dignity, build trust in government, and promote political engagement.

Rights and the Limits of Human Kindness

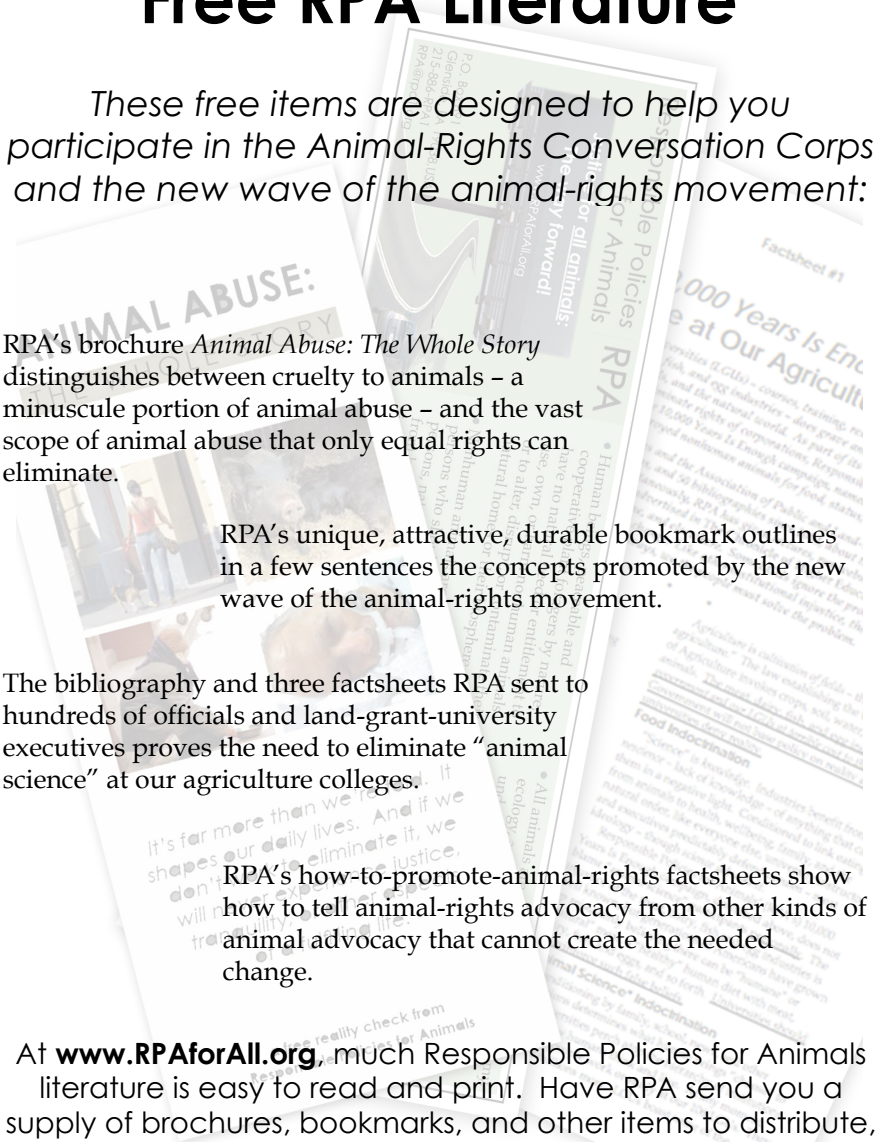
The vast scope of animal abuse that defines and informs civilization, ideologies like humanism that rationalize animal abuse, and human indifference to nonhuman animals' suffering reflect the invisibility of most animal abuse to most humans at any given moment and humans' innate predisposition – shared with other animals – to favor family members and friends. Humans' *biophilia* – their innate concern for other animals and the living world – cannot by itself overcome *kin altruism*.

That is why nonhuman animals are in such dire need of something like RPA's Draft Bill To Establish Equal Rights of All Animals. Human rights make it unconstitutional and unlawful for government employees to violate certain natural boundaries of humans whom they do not care about because they do not know them. Few officers, prosecutors, judges, or bureaucrats are saints.

Likewise, equal autonomy, ecology, and dignity rights of all animals will institutionalize justice for nonhuman animals. Not because all humans care intensely about them, but because of the need for civilization to operate as if they did. ★

Free RPA Literature

These free items are designed to help you participate in the Animal-Rights Conversation Corps and the new wave of the animal-rights movement:



RPA's brochure *Animal Abuse: The Whole Story* distinguishes between cruelty to animals – a minuscule portion of animal abuse – and the vast scope of animal abuse that only equal rights can eliminate.

RPA's unique, attractive, durable bookmark outlines in a few sentences the concepts promoted by the new wave of the animal-rights movement.

The bibliography and three factsheets RPA sent to hundreds of officials and land-grant-university executives proves the need to eliminate "animal science" at our agriculture colleges.

RPA's how-to-promote-animal-rights factsheets show how to tell animal-rights advocacy from other kinds of animal advocacy that cannot create the needed change.

At **www.RPAforAll.org**, much Responsible Policies for Animals literature is easy to read and print. Have RPA send you a supply of brochures, bookmarks, and other items to distribute, at **RPA@rpa1.org** or **215-886-RPA1**. There is no time to lose: The plight of all animals, including humans, worsens each day – don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Thank you!