

## Welcome to Humane Education!

"The task before each of us is to choose compassion in the face of apathy that deadens our spirit, restraint in the face of desires that can harm, and courage in the face of fears that hold us back – and to do so in practical, concrete ways that translate our ethics into action."

That passage, from Zoe Weil's new book *Above All, Be Kind: Raising a Humane Child in Challenging Times*, captures the essence of humane education.

A pioneering educator, Weil directs the International Institute for Humane Education (207-667-1025; info@IHEd.org; www.IHEd.org), which offers the first Master of Education degree in Humane Education in the U.S. and humane-education workshops. Her previous books are *Animals in Society* and *So, You Love Animals*. *Above All, Be Kind* gives parents specific ways to prevent apathy, extreme materialism, and dangerous peer influences – forces that divert people from practices that protect animals, ecosystems, and human health and wellbeing – and to nurture mindfulness, respect, and compassion. It also provides thoughtful, succinct lists of relevant facts and resources, so busy parents do not have to be full-time researchers to teach their children well.

A key part of humane education involves ending classroom animal dissection and other inhumane and ecologically unsound teaching methods. Nick Jukes and Mihnea Chiuia, M.D., on behalf of the International Network for Humane Education (InterNICHE, 19 Brookhouse Avenue, Leicester LE2 0JE, UK; coordinator@interniche.org; www.interniche.org), wrote and compiled *From Guinea Pig to Computer Mouse: Alternative Methods for a Progressive, Humane Education*, whose revised and expanded second edition came out in 2003.

Jukes and Chiuia compiled details on more than 500 videos, CD-ROMs, manikins, and other educational aids that replace the use of animals. The book is no mere catalog. A foreword by Gill Langley, Ph.D., an introduction and essays throughout by Jukes and Chiuia, and articles by Jonathan Balcombe, Ph.D., Lara Marie Rasmussen, D.V.M., Mykola Makarchuk, Ph.D., and other leading experts from many nations explain the suffering and intellectual and emotional harm caused by classroom and laboratory uses of animals. They show how the world's best and brightest are learning to be doctors, veterinarians, and scientists without abusing non-human animals – more effectively than those professions are learned when animals are made to suffer and die.

All people supposedly want to create a nonviolent world that is safe for today's children, their children, their children's children, Earth's other beings, ecosystems, and the biosphere. Webster's defines "humane" as "having what are considered the best qualities of humankind; ... merciful, sympathetic, etc." So humane education appears to advance what all human beings desire.

But in fact, efforts to establish schools that emphasize humane education in addition to traditional subjects and high academic standards often encounter organized resistance and vilification. Some parents complain when educators teach respect for animals. Animal advocates experienced in teaching about animal abuse and what can be done to stop it are routinely prevented from addressing students and teachers.

By supporting Responsible Policies for Animals and other organizations promoting humane education, you enable more people in all walks of life to make the choices that create a humane world. You can also help by taking steps to advance humane education in your community. Ask us how! As Zoe Weil puts it, "It's all worth it because our children and our planet are worth it." ★

Thank you for supporting Responsible Policies for Animals! Let us know if you would like to become more involved, and be sure to refer friends to [www.RPAforAll.org](http://www.RPAforAll.org)!

Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc.  
P.O. Box 891  
Glenside, PA 19038

*Educating leaders for a humane future.*

# Thin Ice\*

The Newsletter of Responsible Policies for Animals

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## 10,000 Years Is Enough Campaign: Educating Educators

*Help End Egg, Milk, Meat Industry Training at Public Expense!*

Responsible Policies for Animals' (RPA's) spring and fall 2003 mailings urging the presidents of the 50 states' premier land-grant universities (LGUs) to stop training students for the cruel, polluting, resource-wasting, health-threatening egg, milk, and meat industries advanced a major effort on behalf of animals, people, and ecosystems – the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign. It has been inspiring animal and environmental activists and alarming the animal industries.

Experienced activists have become RPA members, and membership continues to grow. Meanwhile, RPA founder and Executive Director David Cantor gave the first public **10,000 Years Is Enough** presentation at an EarthSave event in Baltimore, Maryland; another to several classes at the Moravian College auditorium in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; a third to a University of Delaware conservation class in Newark, Delaware.

### Campaign in Spotlight

The Student Environmental Action Coalition (www.seac.org) established a link to RPA's website, as did several kind animal organizations. An article on the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign is anticipated in SEAC's excellent magazine *Threshold*. And thousands of students and other readers learned about the campaign from feature articles and letters in the newspapers of three major LGUs: Cornell University, the University of Arizona, and Iowa State University.

*PR Week; Farmed Animal Watch; PSYETA News: The Newsletter of Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals; The Sylvanian, the Pennsylvania Sierra Club chapter newsletter; Animal Writes; Meat News; the Texas Grain & Feed Association's newsletter:* These are some of the many and varied publications that have reported on the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign. And it was the subject of at least one meat-industry conference presentation!

### Insidious LGU Problem

Supporting the egg, dairy, and meat industries – as the universities do in a big way! – for decades has put the LGUs in opposition to the humane treatment of animals, environmental protection, and optimal human health. For decades, the LGUs have even supported the feeding of animal products to cattle and other natural herbivores. Sci-

*(continued on page 2)*

**Q:** How can we have humane and ecologically sound food production when universities teach cruel, polluting, and resource-wasting methods?

**A:** We can't.

Help end the teaching of cruel, destructive factory farming – support Responsible Policies for Animals' 10,000 Years Is Enough campaign!

\*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 the Earth's climate has thinned the ice: It won't support enough weight at some feeding sites, so some bears are going hungry.

RPA

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## RPA Fights Cruel Force-Feeding

*Tells Leaders: Avoid Celebrating with Diseased Livers of Abused Ducks & Geese!*

In plenty of time for the 2003 holiday season, RPA sent every U.S. senator and representative a special letter on behalf of animals: "This holiday season, we request your leadership in compassion by urging you to forego foie gras wherever it may be served and to inform others that you will not indulge in foie gras because of the extreme cruelty involved in its production."

As we explained, "Foie gras, a duck or goose liver enlarged to many times normal size through repeated force-feeding for weeks on end, is most widely served during the holiday season – just at the time of year devoted to the universal desire for peace and the renewing of worthy commitments!" And, "If you give a holiday party, some in the catering or restaurant industry may recommend that you serve foie gras. It may be served at parties where you are a guest. Producers seek to put a happy face on this grisly product – many retailers are misled. ... Your example and your influence can help end needless suffering."

The letter was accompanied by RPA Factsheet #6, *Foie Gras and Leadership Don't Mix*, describing the force-feeding, terrible suffering the birds endure, and cover-ups that have helped this unconscionable industry persist.

The factsheet explains that (1) veterinarians agree foie gras is the painful liver disease hepatic lipidosis in the live birds, and (2) the agriculture extension services of Cornell University and University of California Davis serve the foie gras industry. New York and California are the states that force-feed birds for this "gourmet" grotesquerie.

This tendency to support absolutely anything industry does to animals is one of many reasons universities must stop teaching "animal science." ★

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entists consider that to cause "mad cow" disease and other spongiform encephalopathies, diseases that put sponge-like holes in humans' and other animals' brains.

Providing training and research that the animal industries should pay for on their own helps keep egg, milk, and meat prices artificially low and helps maximize industry profits. This slows the much-needed move to a plant-based diet. People of many nations aspire to live as Americans do, but coming here to live gives many children poor eating habits, as reported in a 1998 study by the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine.

The LGUs are partly responsible for that and also for helping the animal industries spread their harmful products and their cruel, polluting factory farms to China, the Philippines, and other nations where pre-existing diets are superior even when the people are less affluent.

Serving the animal industries also puts universities in the position of promoting those industries free of charge. Knowing prestigious universities train students for the egg, milk, and meat industries, obviously many people will assume incorrectly that those industries are humane, ecologically sound, and good for human health. Education designed to benefit students would inform them of problems with animal industries rather than reinforce misconceptions and poor eating habits.

#### Predictable Denials

So far, 10 of the 50 land-grant universities RPA is working with – 20 percent – have replied, some of them more than once. As expected, all have refused to consider eliminating their "animal science" programs – so far. Also as expected, no LGU president or agriculture dean who replied could refute even one statement in RPA's letters or factsheets explaining why the schools must stop serving the animal industries.

Some have shown they know very little about the animals exploited by the egg, milk, and meat industries or the dire problems linked to those industries.

Excuses were many – for example, that instructors do not specifically tell students to be cruel to animals while teaching universally cruel egg, milk, and meat industry practices, including slaughtering animals at small fractions of their species' natural lifespans.

#### Moving Right Along...

What did RPA do when LGU administrators wouldn't listen? RPA is an educational organization, so we went right on educating. Resistance to education is common. Nor did we think change would come quickly to large, well-funded institutions with long-established links to the animal industries.

Our very special third mailing to LGU presidents has gone out! It includes the recent book *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon: The Emotional World of Farm Animals* by best-selling author Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson. And author Jeff Masson kindly agreed to include a compelling message to each LGU president explaining why they absolutely must consider the animals their schools exploit and slaughter. Your support made it possible – thank you!

#### Be Sure To Help Cut Classes!

The LGU presidents' names and addresses are enclosed. Please write to the one in your state – and others as well. Urge them to take the steps necessary to end their schools' teaching of "animal science."

And please ask the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges to help move the LGUs in the right direction! Write to Dr. C. Peter McGrath, President, NASULGC, 1307 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005-4722.

Request our free 10,000 Years Is Enough information pack. It's great for telling friends about this crucial campaign for animals, people, and ecosystems. ★

In addition to its kind and generous members, RPA is ...

#### Staff

David Cantor, Executive Director

#### Board of Directors

David Cantor, President

Lynn Cummings, Esquire, Vice President

Doug Percival, Secretary

Rob Teti, D.V.M., Treasurer

★

In this issue of *Thin Ice*, we especially wish to thank, for special service to the animals via RPA on a volunteer basis, ...

Maryanne Appel

Elizabeth Holt

Diana Artemis

Elizabeth Killough

Nancy Bowman

Thomas Linzey

Gloria Feldscher

Dot McDonald

Mary Finelli

Betty & Arthur Sherman

Susan Gordon

Caleb Wistar

★

Eric Hauser is RPA's webmaster.

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RPA shows influential people and institutions how to establish responsible policies for animals that are also responsible policies for people and ecosystems.

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## "Animal Science":

### *Words Hide Destructive Teachings*

"Animal science" is the term universities use for courses serving today's egg, dairy, and meat industries. We all expect universities to use words correctly, but that name hardly fits!

More than one million animal species exist. In "animal science," students only study some things about a few species. They don't study animals so much as animal industries. Enough about chickens, pigs, cattle, turkeys, sheep, and others to subject them to the mistreatment that makes them profitable.

Zoology – including ethology, the study of animal behavior – is really animal science. A standard dictionary calls it "the science, a branch of biology, that deals with animals, their life, structure, growth ...." And ethology has produced much of the scientific knowledge of animals' thoughts and feelings, opening many minds to the recognition that ours isn't the only species that has them.

The university term "animal science" misleads students to think they are gaining valuable knowledge about many of Earth's living beings, whereas they're mainly learning to serve cruel industries. Calling those courses egg, dairy, and meat technology would be more accurate but would not sound academic. And they aren't. They're industrial training that should be provided and paid for by the industries themselves. ★

## Update: RPA's This Land Is Their Land Campaign To Protect Wildlife

*Help Replace Wildlife Destruction with Sound Land Use!*

As part of RPA's This Land Is Their Land campaign aimed at replacing wildlife destruction with responsible land-use practices, RPA's executive director, David Cantor, appeared for the third consecutive year on *It's Your Call with Lynn Doyle*, a call-in talk show broadcast live from the Comcast station CN8 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Many millions of cable subscribers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware have access to *It's Your Call*.

The show had Cantor and prominent New Jersey animal activist Stu Chaifetz ([www.hnva.com](http://www.hnva.com)) educating viewers, broadcasters, and two hunter panelists who tried to defend their "sport" about the cruelty of "sport" hunting and why killing deer does not solve alleged "deer problems."

The studio's phone never stopped ringing, and so many e-mails came in during the show that the host could only read a small fraction of them before the hour-long broadcast was over.

#### RPA in the Papers

Cantor published an op-ed\* in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on March 8, 2004. The article explained that RPA views the proposed "right of the people to hunt and fish" amendment to Pennsylvania's Constitution as a fine opportunity to show that most Pennsylvanians, like most other Americans, favor humane treatment of animals, not blood sports.

It explained that most Pennsylvania wildlife regulations "mainly bolster 1930s policies that were meant as stop-gap measures to halt the unregulated destruction of wildlife and habitat and have instead brought regulated destruction ever since." Also that such an amendment is "another substitute for the best we can do as a society to protect wildlife and habitat and to restore healthy ecosystems for animals and people alike."

And, "Most people seeing a mourning dove, a rabbit, or a deer do not see a target but a being struggling against the odds to share a small patch of earth with one disruptive species that makes life tougher for the rest."

With assistance from member Nancy Bowman, RPA published a letter in Princeton, New Jersey's daily newspaper the *Princeton Packet* on November 4, 2003. It explained why Princeton residents should support improved land-use practices and reject deer kills organized by their government under the guise of "doing something" about problems wrongly attributed to deer.

#### Realtors Still Avoiding Responsibility

RPA wrote recently to the 2004 president of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) asking him to cooperate with the millions of people working to protect animals, ecosystems, and people against the many damaging effects of suburban sprawl – especially wildlife destruction.

Last August, and again in October, we explained the problem to then NAR President Catherine Watley (see *Thin Ice*, Fall 2003). She never replied, apparently not wishing to accept responsibility for NAR's practices.

NAR can do a lot to help protect wildlife since it represents about 1 million realtors in the U.S. and "seeks to be the leading advocate of the right to own, use, and transfer real property...." RPA believes NAR should seek to be, and to help all Americans become, responsible stewards of land and protectors of the countless animals subjected to people's ecosystem destruction and rampant automobile and oil dependency. Those who deal in land must make better deals for wildlife.

#### Please Be Sure to Help!

You can help NAR accept responsibility for its impact on wildlife along with the membership fees, the power over U.S. land-use practices and lawmakers, and the new 12-storey building in Washington, D.C., it already gladly accepts.

Write to **Mr. Walter T. McDonald, President, National Association of Realtors, 430 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.** Ask him to help develop ways to protect animals, not just to "develop" more land. ★

\*Literally meaning opposite the editorial page of a newspaper (the page on which the editorial board publishes its opinions in editorials), an op-ed is a commentary, usually 500-800 words.