

## RPA's First Grant!

RPA extends heartfelt gratitude to the Sam's Club company of Bentonville, Arkansas, for a \$1,000.00 grant the company announced it is awarding RPA this June, just before this issue of *Thin Ice* went to print! Thank you, also, Jennifer Smith and the Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, Sam's Club store!

And special thanks to the Greater Glenside Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director Annie Winterbottom for recommending RPA for the grant, the first one RPA has received!

Sam's Club grants are awarded for service to the local community. RPA will use its grant to inform local schools, churches, and others of RPA's availability to give educational presentations on responsible policies for animals that are also responsible policies for people and ecosystems.

The funds will enable RPA to advertise its educational services as well.

Many thanks to you, RPA's members, too! If not for you, the organization could not yet have reached the point of qualifying for Sam's Club's generosity. ★

## Congratulations to RPA Member ...

... Gloria Feldscher for her letter published in the March 27, 2005, *New York Times* correcting that newspaper's speciesist editorial "When Good Deer Go Bad." Gloria pointed out, "One could justifiably substitute *Homo sapiens* for white-tailed deer in [the editorial] .... It is the human animal that inflicts the most rapacious assault on the environment by polluting air and waterways and despoiling the forests because of its need for more lumber for more developments."

Gloria Feldscher is a long-time animal advocate and has published countless letters-to-the-editor, including recent ones in *The Jewish Exponent* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. ★

## Animal Rights: The Human Connection

Sometimes people ask, If nonhuman animals have moral rights that must be established in law and responsible policies for animals are those that eliminate animal exploitation and abuse, why does RPA also talk about responsible policies for people and ecosystems?

That's right: Nonhuman animals' interests in their lives and their wellbeing cannot be protected until their basic moral rights are recognized in law and custom. That is sufficient reason for establishing animal rights.

Unfortunately, most people learn speciesist ideologies from birth. People invoke those prejudiced and inaccurate views to deny other animals their rights. Some claim people will suffer if nonhuman animals are recognized as rights-holders. RPA refutes those notions because they are obstacles to animal rights and are untrue. Revealing them as ideologies that serve private interests, not the common good, and showing how they harm people is necessary for establishing animals' basic rights in law and custom.

Humans must make some adjustments to respect nonhuman animals' rights - just as people must control their behavior to respect human rights. When members of a previously oppressed group are newly recognized as rights-holders, those already accorded their rights must adjust to the new balance of interests. That is part of the process by which civilization eliminates tyranny and progresses toward equality. ★

**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!**

# Thin Ice\*

The Newsletter of Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc. Vol. 3, No.1 ★ Spring-Summer 2005

## Working To Eliminate "Animal Science"

*RPA again tells taxpayer-funded universities: No more breed & kill!*

This April, RPA sent its fourth **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign mailing to the presidents of all 50 states' biggest land-grant universities (LGUs). The letter declares that, in the two years of RPA's campaign to end our publicly funded LGUs' billions of dollars' worth of service to the flesh, milk, and egg industries, no LGU has been able to refute any of RPA's claims or to defend their "animal science" programs.

### Double Standard Hurts Animals

"Were a case presented for eliminating mathematics, literature, or any other academic program as a case has been made for eliminating 'animal science,'" the letter says, "university administrators could easily refute it based on the program's substance and how it serves students' and society's needs." And,

The basic rights of nonhuman animals, shown to exist to the same extent that human rights can be shown to exist, must be established in law and custom for nonhuman animals to be treated humanely by humans and for other important needs to be met, such as sound human nutrition and ecosystem protection.

The letter also explains that "managing 'farm animals' humanely to extinction will be a long-term process," so "some LGUs may wish to consider transforming their 'animal science' programs to animal sanctuaries."

That can make eliminating "animal science" less disruptive for some students and instructors and more rewarding for veterinary students and others who would rather help nonhuman animals live good lives to their species' natural lifespans than keep them enslaved to industry's quest for profit.

### New Factsheet Enclosed

Accompanying the letter to LGU presidents was RPA's Factsheet #8: "Animal Science": False Teachings for Destructive Industries. It lists false beliefs "animal science" promotes or fails to correct: that nonhuman animals do not have any rights; that animal welfare is taught in "animal science" programs; that human beings are natural omnivores; that human beings need to consume protein from nonhuman animals for good health; and that raising animals for food for a large human population can be ecologically sustainable.

(Continued on page 3)

## Good at Forming Attachments?

*Try out RPA's first bumper sticker!*

As long as some of us need automobiles - a bane of the animals' existence! - we might as well attach them to RPA's first bumper sticker! It has a true animal rights message. Check it out on the "Support RPA" page of [www.RPAforAll.org](http://www.RPAforAll.org).

Professionally and beautifully designed, it shows silhouetted chickens, fish, pigs, and other animals humans misguidedly use for food, and it declares, "**They're sentient beings, not food choices!**"

Bestselling author Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson (*When Elephants Weep; The Pig Who Sang to the Moon*) - whose car is sporting the sticker in New Zealand! - writes, "**[I]t is the best I have ever seen.**"

We think you'll like it, too! It sells for just \$2.00. ★

## Help Cut Destructive Classes! It's easy to write in support of the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign!

Check out RPA's mailings to the LGU presidents! The letters and factsheets are easy to find at [www.RPAforAll.org](http://www.RPAforAll.org), and we are glad to mail or e-mail copies upon request.

Also at the site, you'll find RPA's list of all 50 LGUs RPA has now contacted four times - and their presidents. By writing a brief letter to the LGU president in your state, you can make significant progress in the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign! Please also write to the others as time permits.

If you might have difficulty getting to all 50 LGUs, consider the "top 10" serving the meat industry according to *Meat & Poultry* magazine, listed here starting with "number 1": Iowa State University, Texas A&M University, University of Arkansas, Kansas State, University of Georgia, Ohio State, Oklahoma State, Colorado State, Texas Tech, and Auburn University (Alabama).

### Take the Long View

The "animal science" programs have developed over many decades - with billions of dollars and help from big corporations, government, the news industry, alumni associations, and others. They promote and reinforce destructive eating habits and inhumane food-production methods nurtured for thousands of years. We all must work now to create a humane, healthful, and ecologically sound future.

**10,000 Years Is Enough** is an ambitious, long-term - and *absolutely necessary* - campaign for animal rights. *Just by showing it has your support*, you will make significant progress. Just say in your letters that you are convinced "*animal science*" *must go* - basic reasons are provided at [www.RPAforAll.org](http://www.RPAforAll.org) and in RPA's literature - and ask for any possible justification for perpetuating it. Let RPA know of any questions you may have. RPA is interested in any replies you may receive.

RPA member Maryanne Appel wrote to all 50 LGUs. She received many replies - even from some LGUs that *still* have never responded to RPA's mailings! Thanks - and well done, Maryanne!

RPA literature may be shared freely, without special permission. It's a great time to get friends involved in the **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.

*Educating leaders for a humane future.*

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## 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 industries and RPA's This Land Is Their Land campaign to protect wildlife, RPA has been pleased to advance animal rights in many other ways.*

☞ RPA assisted a school principal in the Cobb County, Georgia, public school system in persuading the School Board to prohibit the keeping of nonhuman animals as classroom pets.

The principal's spouse, also employed in the school system, contacted RPA after learning of an article RPA Executive Director David Cantor had published in *The American School Board Journal* years before: "Animals Don't Belong in School." The article describes many instances in which keeping live nonhuman animals in schools had caused terrible suffering and death.

RPA sent a copy of the article to assist in the educators' effort. The accompanying letter offered additional comments in case they could be useful in communications with the School Board. A couple of months later, they e-mailed RPA: "Thanks to your information, ... it is now against county policy for ANY classroom to keep animals of ANY kind!!!"

☞ RPA provided information and suggestions for action to activists in Glenview, Illinois, who succeeded in changing that city's annual Goldfish Day so that animals would not be forced to suffer as terribly as in past years. For many years, on Goldfish Day, a large number of live goldfish were brought to the town swimming pool in a truck and dumped into the pool, where young children were encouraged to chase and capture them. In past years, some traumatized and injured fish died soon after children took them home as pets.

In 2004, RPA was quoted in the *Glenview Journal* on the need to respect fish. On Goldfish Day, fish were put in non-chlorinated water and children were permitted to scoop them out. These highly vulnerable animals' right not to be the property of humans still needs to be recognized, but chances appear good that Goldfish Day will cease altogether.

☞ We made two scheduled visits to the University of Delaware-Newark. A professor in the college of agriculture who had invited RPA Executive Director David Cantor to speak to his wildlife conservation classes in past years had Cantor explain animal rights to this year's group. Including how RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** and **This Land Is Their Land** campaigns promote animal rights and make for better agriculture and land use. And how state-controlled "wildlife management" by hunting - sometimes also inaccurately called "wildlife conservation" - hinders conservation and violates nonhuman animals' basic rights.

In the middle of Cantor's presentation, the instructor made an impassioned statement. He had learned important things each time Cantor visited his class, he said. This would be his last term teaching at the University of Delaware. In his next phase of life, working at a land-grant university in another state, he planned to stop eating "meat" and hoped the students would all consider the impact of their diet on nonhuman animals and ecosystems.

Just one week after Cantor's presentation to the wildlife conservation class, an event organized by the University of Delaware Student Vegan & Vegetarian Community held an event where RPA set up an exhibit explaining the "animal science" problem and the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign to eliminate it - and gave out free literature.

### 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  
 Rob Teti, D.V.M., Treasurer & Acting Secretary

★

Eric Hauser is RPA's webmaster.  
*Thin Ice* is designed by Kristen K. Schada,  
 Kirkland Printing, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

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Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc. (RPA), shows influential people how to establish 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.

The organizers made sure the event, held in a large student union building, would attract a large number of students by booking talented rock bands for the adjacent room. Several other animal and environmental organizations also tabled at the event.

☞ RPA Executive Director David Cantor gave a presentation on animal rights this March at the Greater Glenside Chamber of Commerce in RPA's hometown of Glenside, Pennsylvania. Titled *How Businesses Can Help Animals*, the talk was well received despite understandable misgivings some Chamber members did their best to keep in check.

Including a local high-school business class and its instructor who attended as guests of the Chamber, about 50 people attended. The information packs they received included the 1990 Declaration of the Rights of Animals, RPA Factsheet # 7: *How Businesses Can Help Animals*, and literature explaining RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** and **This Land Is Their Land** campaigns.

The Factsheet is available at [www.RPAforAll.org](http://www.RPAforAll.org). Like all of RPA's literature, it may be freely shared, without special permission.

☞ Cantor gave two presentations at the **Grassroots Animal Rights Conference** in New York City in April. One was on building alliances between the animal rights and environmental movements. He emphasized RPA's **This Land Is Their Land** campaign, explain-

ing that the prohibitions against abuse nonhuman animals' rights will represent when they are established in law will protect ecosystems far more effectively than the environmental and conservation movements have so far.

The other talk was on RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign. Cantor emphasized the need to end service to the flesh, milk, and egg industries by our publicly funded institutions - and that our land-grant universities are the most important to separate from the industries because of the enormous boost given to the industries by so much training, research, and explicit and implicit promotion. He pointed out that, even though it is important for people to understand why a plants-only diet is preferable to one that exploits nonhuman animals, recognizing the animals' rights eliminates flesh, milk, and eggs as acceptable choices.

Both presentations were very well attended and well received, and both led to interesting conversations later in the conference with people who had become interested in RPA's campaigns. All attendees received RPA information packs.

☞ RPA published letters in the March/April *World-Watch* magazine - a publication of the internationally respected Worldwatch Institute - telling why, even if the entire "meat" industry gave up factory farming - extremely unlikely! - with a human population of 6.5 billion people and counting, the industry could never be made ecologically sustainable; the March 7, 2005, *Philadelphia Inquirer* explaining how administering contraceptive chemicals to deer violates the animals' rights as proclaimed in the 1990 Declaration of the Rights of Animals; and the June 15, 2005, *Philadelphia Inquirer* giving the lie to a columnist's claim that human beings would benefit by continuing to resist animal rights. ★

## This Land Is Their Land Campaign Reaches Out to Industry

What do General Motors, Goodyear, Exxon-Mobil, the National Association of Realtors (NAR), the New Jersey Association of Realtors, and the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors have in common?

They all contribute to suburban sprawl - a huge assault on nonhuman animals, people, and ecosystems - and they have all heard from RPA.

RPA's **This Land Is Their Land** campaign aims to protect wildlife by promoting responsible land-use practices as well as opposing armed attacks against the animals. Because NAR has about 1 million members who deal in land, it was the first organization RPA contacted in the campaign (see *Thin Ice*, Fall 2003).

### A Matter of Responsibility

When it comes to impacts on nonhuman animals, people must accept responsibility as far as their impacts reach. It will take a while: Just the practice of "making toast," for example - a food that needn't involve animals' flesh, milk, or eggs - uses electrical power. Electrical power is generated for millions of people's everyday use with enormous harm to nonhuman animals.

So RPA is asking influential people to take the lead in changing practices that harm nonhuman animals. That way, people will find their way to humane living more quickly than if those who set the standards continue to insist on inhumane ways.

### High Costs of Sprawl

Automobile collisions kill about 365 million nonhuman animals each year just in the U.S. The more land humans occupy, the more car-driving takes place.

Like agriculture, sprawl is the disruption of natural ecosystems and nonhuman animals' natural homes for strictly human purposes.

While U.S. agriculture involves scattered human-built structures, thousands of miles of fences, and thousands of miles of roads, sprawl adds much-more-concentrated bulldozing, building, paving, and car driving - and also countless miles of fences in smaller increments.

Agriculture adds non-indigenous plants cultivated for food. (Raising animals is not accurately called agriculture.) Sprawl adds millions of acres of non-indigenous turf grass. In most places, maintaining turf grass harms wildlife, depletes fresh water supplies, and suppresses natural ecosystems without even meeting crucial human needs. Maintaining lawns often involves toxic chemicals, too, though many people have learned to stop using them.

### Time to Get Real

Sprawl is human fantasy - "frontier living," "living close to nature," "keeping up with the Joneses," and the like - acted out on free-living animals' habitat. In reality, sprawl is almost as bad for humans as for nonhumans.

Living where needs cannot be met on foot, losing long periods to car-driving almost every day, getting little exercise, not knowing neighbors, lacking nearby public meeting places, being unable to organize politically and socially, paying high taxes to maintain roads and traffic law enforcement, paying high medical and car insurance premiums to cover driving-related injuries and damage to cars, depleting towns' and cities' tax bases: These are some of sprawl's many disadvantages to people.

### Enter the Influential

That is why RPA is asking organizations and companies like those mentioned above to help end sprawl. Doing so is truly a responsible policy for nonhuman animals that is also a responsible policy for people and ecosystems.

It is also necessary for establishing nonhuman animals' basic rights. In addition to the right not to be killed by automobiles, the animals have the right to homes that human beings do not needlessly invade, disrupt, and destroy.

See the wildlife page at [www.RPAforAll.org](http://www.RPAforAll.org) for opportunities to support RPA's (your!) **This Land Is Their Land** campaign with your words. ★

(Continued from page 1)

### "Animal Science" Misinforms

Using universities to create a false impression that the flesh, milk, and egg industries are based on science corrupts education generally - and higher education in particular.

As explained in "The Comparative Anatomy of Eating" by Milton R. Mills, M.D. (request a copy from RPA or read it at [www.eatveg.com/vegstuff/anatomy.htm](http://www.eatveg.com/vegstuff/anatomy.htm)), all human anatomical and physiological traits related to obtaining, consuming and digesting food are those of animals scientifically classified as herbivores.

That consuming flesh, milk, or eggs does not usually kill people outright does not affect this crucial fundamental fact - one of many that must be dealt with before any food-production system can be considered science-based.

"Animal science" only applies the scientific method to narrow bits of knowledge of very few species. It excludes crucial ethical, nutritional, health, ecological, and other aspects of animal exploitation.

The LGUs were established to promote the common good by helping farmers, not to serve the flesh, milk, and egg industries. Like nonhuman animals, farmers and the general public suffer from their service to the flesh, milk, and egg industries.

The LGUs must eliminate "animal science" and not merely reform it as some misguided efforts would have them do instead. Please help persuade them - see "Help Cut Destructive Classes! on page two." ★