



Total Animal Advocacy, Anyone?

A recent RPA action illustrates what thousands must do to get a grip on humanity's global rampage against all animals, including humans.

By David Cantor

So much has changed since I became a full-time animal advocate, in 1989. Then, animal advocacy, environmentalism, public health, pacifism, equal human rights, antidefamation, and other altruistic endeavors seemed plausible remedies to big problems. Now, with floods, fires, storms, droughts, and wars raging, sea levels rising, fresh water ebbing, 100 million people displaced, more human slaves than ever before, disease increasing, insects and other nonhuman animals vanishing, human beings continuing to overpopulate and over-occupy Earth, violent crime out of control, mental distress, familial strife and fragmentation, painkiller addiction, and suicide rampant, and more animal abuse than ever before, nearly everyone I communicate with is in despair or skeptical that any organized activity can “make a difference.” These, plus avoidance and denial, are precisely the mental states engineered by the global capitalist dictatorship and the counterrevolution (misleadingly called the “conservative movement”) to protect the life-destroying industries that dominate civilization.

What I have been doing with Responsible Policies for Animals since 2003 and what I propose for all branches of the struggle for justice might not be able to move our species

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What Is the Animal-Abuse Revolution, and Why Does It Matter?

By David Cantor

Many people learn that the Agricultural Revolution is the original human technological paradigm shift, enabling the emergence of civilization, the Industrial Revolution, and all that we experience as modern living. Investigating forms, histories, and origins of animal abuse these past three decades, though, I came to see that the Agricultural Revolution was itself made possible by previous technological innovations, especially weapons and the killing of predators. I coined the term Animal-Abuse Revolution (AAR) for the original paradigm shift in a 2014 article. I see the AAR as the root of the vast scope of animal abuse practiced today, the Biocaust affecting every living being, and nearly all human misery.

Agriculture depends on human families' living in one place for a long time. That is *not* how original human beings lived; it is not normal or natural. Over millions of years, humans evolved to move about the African savanna landscape, avoiding predation while foraging for a great variety of plants to eat. Humans did not evolve with bodily weapons – antlers, horns, hooves, venom – to defend themselves and each other, let alone fangs, claws, or a predator's speed and pounce to kill other animals for food. They kept safe by monitoring predators, fleeing, climbing trees or boulders, and wielding large sticks and throwing rocks.

Observing animals with bodily weapons kill or injure attacking predators, some early humans noted that broken branches and sticks with sharp points resembled horns and antlers. Wielding them enabled people to kill or repel predators. Over time, the most aggressively dominant and least empathetic developed cabals, manufacturing weapons and seeking out and killing predators who were not attacking. They began to use weapons on fellow herbivores with whom humans might have had friendly relations before, unnaturally adding meat to their natural plant-eating lifeway.

Before agriculture, humans drove extinct an estimated fifty percent of Earth's large-mammal species. Gradually, eliminating dangerous animals by violence enabled humans to live permanently in one place, abusing nonhuman animals by clearing and plowing land, enslaving and breeding them, killing those who fed on crops and stored foods, and killing dangerous animals who could encroach on human settlements. Today, hundreds of thousands of people are employed by exterminating companies, Animal Control, USDA Wildlife Services, state wildlife agencies, and trap, poison, and weapon manufacturers.

The AAR is maintained by false and harmful speciesist lifeways, policies, vocabularies, erasures, and perceptions so that few humans realize their lives and experience are based on animal abuse. What started as altruism devolved into manufactured hysteria – Red Scare, War on Drugs, Make America Great Again, Final Solution, countless atrocities occurring today. Violence-mongers call human targets by names given to defamed and abused nonhuman animals – predators, vermin, rats, swine, cockroaches – to overcome our natural affinity for each other and our innate peaceable nature.

Understanding the AAR, we can see why total animal advocacy is needed (see “Total Animal Advocacy, Anyone?,” this page). Atrocities addressed by standard animal advocacy are symptoms; the AAR is the problem. ★

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toward a tolerable mode of existence against such overwhelming trajectories, but long-established methods and theories stand defeated today and probably cannot regain any traction they might once have had.

If your furnace is turned way up and your fireplace is crackling, you won't be able to cool your home with air-conditioning. Likewise, as long as universities, schools, news, government, publishers, and health experts promote policies and practices that kill and injure, we the people will not be able to reverse those policies and practices. That is precisely the predicament we face. The insidious, universal teaching of false and harmful beliefs must be halted if suffering in humans and other animals is to be reduced and justice established. In the fall 2021 issue of *Persons*, I explained the need to emphasize animal abuse as the root cause of human misery so more humans would grasp how they suffer from animal abuse. Not only are humans more altruistic toward humans than toward other animals, but Constitution and law, like civilization as a whole, de-personize nonhuman animals, so they have no rights. The political & legal infrastructure provide no remedy or recourse for "them," only for "us." Based on the response to the fall issue, I find it useful to put a name to the advocacy RPA pioneers and promotes - and to illustrate how it is done through a recent RPA action.

Total Animal Advocacy

I think *total animal advocacy* fits. The RPA work that your donations support promotes a total paradigm shift: from the long-running Animal-Abuse Revolution (AAR; see box page 1) as policy, ideology, vocabulary and practice to reversing the AAR. We define animals in their totality as human beings and all others regardless of their appeal to humans. We define animal abuse in its totality as everything human beings do to and with other animals and their natural homes and ecosystems, as distinct from cruelty to animals. We hold animal abuse responsible for the totality of human misery, the AAR starting

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Persons cover art: Rebecca Lotka and David Cantor.

Defining animal abuse as everything human beings do to and with other animals and their natural homes and ecosystems, recognizing animal abuse as both the basis of civilization and the root cause of human misery, and acknowledging that standard animal advocacy cannot achieve a reduction in animal abuse, Responsible Policies for Animals (RPA) brings new and original methods to the endeavor.

RPA demands that institutions, thought leaders, and the industry-government-university-media complex stop promoting animal abuse and speciesism and become anti-speciesist - for the sake of human beings, the other animals, and Earth. RPA uses its website, correspondence, literature, meetings, group presentations, *Persons*, and other means to advance its campaigns and to teach others RPA's methods.

RPA members donate \$25 or more and receive *Persons*, e-Updates, and RPA's unique bumper sticker and brochures. On request, RPA considers ill, indigent, or imprisoned persons for donation-free honorary membership. Learn more and donate tax-free at www.RPAforAll.org or by mail.



Responsible Policies for Animals

RPA@rpa1.org

P.O. Box 891, Glenside, PA 19038, USA

215-886-RPA1

www.RPAforAll.org

at the dawn of our species, informing all of our species' turns for the worse. In civilization's management of the public mind, all of these turns for the worse are called human progress, so it can be difficult, first, to grasp the harm underlying the vaunted quality-of-life improvements; second, to seek and find the animal-abuse component.

Think of total animal advocacy as shifting from micro-advocacy -

helping animals, decrying atrocities, getting one of the 8 billion humans at a time to "go vegan," never affecting animal-abuse policy - to macro-advocacy, demanding that all of our institutions change their policies, practices, teachings, and language to reverse the AAR whereas they all enforce it today. The paradigm must change before incremental reductions of animal abuse can occur. Just as progress for

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humans only began with a new paradigm known as the Enlightenment after thousands of years of tyranny and universal misery. Thousands of advocates are needed to interrupt, disrupt, undermine, and cancel the AAR. RPA provides literature to assist in the process and is constantly revising what is available and preparing more.

RPA started by urging the top agriculture universities in all fifty states to stop promoting the meat delusion and training people for the meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries (MDFE). Facts, reason, and ethics had little impact – except to trigger stonewalling, coverup, damage control, and other public-relations tactics. For decades, the universities have favored profit industries, no matter how harmful, over knowledge and entire fields of study that give the lie to industry propaganda. Grasping that universities are just one component of the AAR and that all components interrelate, we began to address the news industry, the K-12 schooling system, and writers on violence, animals, health, ecology, history, and morality, urging them to stop promoting the AAR and to help reverse it. (Learn about RPA's campaigns at www.RPAforAll.org.)

Even supposedly neutral institutions like standard dictionaries and encyclopedias and the humble crossword puzzle maintain the AAR through their vocabularies and framing. Clue: test group. Answer: lab rats. Chicken: "a common farm bird ... raised for its edible eggs or flesh; ... the flesh of this bird." Absent long, dedicated effort by citizens and advocates to enlighten the captains of civilization's institutions, embedded speciesist perception will continue to thwart mass appeals to compassion, respect, and human morality.

Healthcare and the AAR

Around 1991, at the National Library of Medicine researching laboratory atrocities on nonhuman animals, I opened an issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* to a two-page advertisement proclaiming, "THERE'S STILL A PLACE FOR BEEF IN A WELL-BALANCED DIET" – one institution, Big Meat, urging

another, Big Medicine, via a third, a major medical journal, to ignore research linking animal protein and fat to serious and often fatal human diseases. A medical student decades ago told my mother, "You know, if everyone followed a healthy lifestyle, there wouldn't be much for us doctors to do." Experts promoting healthful plants-only eating note that health practitioners are not trained in nutrition science. Many physicians don't even know human beings are natural herbivores, eating from animals in-

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herently suspect. Through a complex web of institutions, MDFE work to keep health practitioners, raised on generations of propaganda like the rest of us, benighted so their clientèle – we and our family members and friends – will be as well.

An instructive example "fell into my lap" this spring when I read an article circulated online by Fullscript, "healthcare's leading supplement dispensing platform and patient adherence tool," according to its website. The website says "5 million patients and counting" use Fullscript. The article "What Is a Healthy Diet? The Importance of Good Nutrition" by "Laura Dan (BSc, NDTR)," promotes animal protein in the human diet even though nutrition science finds that eating from animals sickens human beings. "BSc," meaning Dan has a bachelor of science degree, raised a flag. Usually, if an author states a credential, it is a terminal degree like Ph.D. or M.D., not a bachelor's degree, which does not indicate a high level of training and expertise. As we'll see, "NDTR" does not inspire confidence, either.

After reading the article with alarm and indignation, I clicked on "Submit

a Comment" and sent the following to Fullscript:

As a layperson who has read about nutrition & health, food politics, and related matters for over thirty years, I consider a couple of core assertions in "What Is A Healthy Diet? ..." to be false and potentially harmful. Nutrition science has ... determined that the optimal amount of animal protein in the human diet is none. And when you define a "vegan" diet ... as "restrictive" while stating that "restrictive" diets are ineffective early in the article, you direct readers away from the optimal human diet, which is plants-only eating. That is not really a "diet" You don't go on it or off it. It is just the way humans evolved to eat – we don't have the bodies of omnivores or carnivores; we are herbivores; so it is predictable – and true – that eating from animals sickens human beings. ...

I received no reply, and Fullscript did not post my comment. I queried Fullscript and again received no reply. The article was "medically reviewed by Dr. Natacha Montpellier, ND [naturopathic doctor], BSc." But one naturopathic doctor (also oddly boasting a BSc degree) is not peer review in the science-journal sense. The blind might have been reviewing the blind.

I sent my submitted comment to a physician who subscribes to Fullscript and knows about some of the research debunking the meat delusion, urging him to ask Fullscript to stop undermining human health and promoting animal abuse by encouraging people to eat from animals. Then it was time to ask RPA Information Specialist Caleb Wistar to find out what "NDTR" is.

Stonewalled: On the Right Track

The NDTR certificate – Nutrition and Dietetics Technician, Registered – is conferred by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The Academy's top administrators hold high positions at some of the fifty agriculture universities RPA has sent letters, factsheets, books, white papers, and

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videos to since 2003 urging them to abandon MDFE in the interests of nonhuman animals, human beings, and the rest of the living world. Despite “nutrition” in the name, NDTR is not a nutrition-science degree. A spokesperson Caleb queried was not able to state that NDTR candidates are required to learn in their training the truth about animal protein in the human diet according to nutrition science. As we go to press, I have not been able to receive a reply to a similar query of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, which accredits dietetic

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technician programs. We will continue to investigate and follow up.

The Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) administers the examination a candidate must pass to receive their NDTR certificate. Sponsors of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics include many food-industry associations and profit agribusiness corporations. These include some meat, dairy, egg, and agrichemical companies involved in the monoculture feed crops responsible for massive toxic pollution of oceans and waterways and toxins in animal products. Sponsors of our agriculture universities’ MDFE programs, the NDTR program, and other indoctrination and training programs expect, at the very least, that instruction and consequently the work of degree and certificate holders will not damage the industries and companies involved. Since their products and services are inherently harmful and sometimes life-destroying, that means not telling the truth about them.

Endless Downward Spiral

Self-authorized to abuse animals for tens of thousands of years by the omnipresent AAR, our species unwittingly entered into tragic cycles where we generate problems through animal abuse, invent solutions that involve more animal abuse, suffer more from imagined solutions, and repeat *ad infinitum*. It has gone something like this for thousands of years:

► Deliberate direct contact with other animals – animal abuse – causes infectious diseases to spill over to human beings. Smallpox, anthrax, tuberculosis, bubonic plague, COVID, MERS, Ebola, influenza, chicken pox/shingles, even the common cold – it is hard to find a human infectious disease not from animal abuse. Beware: News and experts typically call spillover from nonhuman animals “nature” even though our species’ direct contact with other animals is not natural.

► Eating from animals puts into the human body harmful proteins and fats from animals’ tissues, milk, and eggs; heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, and other toxins that accumulate in animals from toxically grown feed, polluted water, and other sources; E. coli, salmonella, and other sources of food poisoning that live in animals’ intestines (even when humans ingest these on plant foods, they originate in animal abuse); and parasites in flesh not thoroughly cooked.

► Since civilization and the Industrial Revolution arise from agriculture and agriculture is enabled by the AAR, the AAR is the root of all constructed and manufactured items, from matches to high-rises. A list of the ways automobiles, buildings, railroads, air and sea travel, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and so many other products of innovation and technology injure, maim, and kill people could fill volumes. Even though original humans suffered terribly when captured by predators (as some do today), in many cases it appears that capture by a predator activates endorphins described by one survivor as causing

“a sort of dreaminess in which there was no sense of pain nor ... terror, though quite conscious of what was happening.”

► Claiming to remedy, cure, or vaccinate against ever more diseases, to repair ever more injuries from ever more sources, and to treat depression, anxiety, and other mental distress rooted in unnatural familial, social, economic, and political relations rooted in the AAR, science abuses ever more nonhuman animals in experiments and in breeding, warehousing, and transporting nonhuman victims. Experiments and tests on nonhuman animals do not indicate effects on human beings. Money, time, energy, training, materials, and fuel expended on elusive remedies do nothing to enlighten human beings to the root causes of their miseries, so the cycle continues. Maybe this is why the news industry constantly invokes “silver linings” – with solutions worsening every existing problem and creating new ones, and with every effort at reform repelled and excluded from public discourse, hope and false optimism might seem the only straws to grasp at.

Where from Here?

Helping nonhuman animals, like helping human beings, is good work. But it cannot reduce animal abuse or eliminate it as civilization’s predominant global policy. Even if thousands will demand needed changes to all of our interconnected institutions, we might not prevail, the momentum and enormity of the AAR being so great and recognition of it coming so late. But identifying the AAR as the root of all misery that we would like to eradicate also identifies total animal advocacy as the endeavor best suited to the job. I intend to keep plugging away; approaching seventy, I have no plan to retire, only to escalate. What about you? Can I recommend ways for you and your friends to challenge the AAR from your own circumstances, with your own abilities? Contact me anytime. ★

Thank you for supporting Responsible Policies for Animals.