

Voice for Animals



Voice For Animals (VFA) is grass roots, non-profit and no kill organization established in 1987 and headquartered in York, Maine.

Presidents Message

Page 1

Vegan Recipes

Page 2



HSUS Maine News



Page 3

Learning Center

Spaying is important!

Page 4



Adopt! and Success!

Check out our wonderful felines looking for their furrrrr-ever home!

Page 5-6

Volunteer

Page 7



Presidents Message

Dear Voice for Animals Members and Friends,

Happy Spring!! A relatively mild winter has now passed and spring weather and activities are beginning. Yet, the concern for animals goes on. Life will be a bit easier for feral cats whose life will always be outdoors and for the many strays we hope to find, fix, and bring inside before they reproduce.

Since we have far fewer stray dogs now many shelters and rescues are looking to bring some needy animals up from the South. We would like to as well, but we need your help, your support, your energy, and your time to do so. Every time we do this it gives another deserving animal a chance to have a happy life with a loving family. Rene Descartes, 1596 –1650, a French philosopher, mathematician, and scientist who believed that animals are automata (that is “like robots”) and incapable of experiencing fear or feeling pain was the person who originally

justified using animals in research, and his ideas still influence many scientists and research facilities today. Yet it is interesting to note that the number of (other than animal rights/welfare) organizations concerned about animals in laboratories is continually increasing. Beagles have been released to rescues as have many primates (who have gone to sanctuaries) and it is likely that the decreased usage will continue. US Senators who are advocating for more product testing have assured me personally that their goals for this increased testing **do not include animals!** But our concern for them, our choice of cruelty free products (check out PeTA’s *Beauty Without Bunnies*) and our advocating for those in biomedical laboratories must continue until all cages are empty.

Life, however, goes on as usual for farm animals, many who live out their sad, short lives in squalid, frightening conditions. These are the creatures for whom we can now do very little. There are many rescued animals but many more remain in horrifying conditions with no hope of release. Yet, for those who can be saved there are a large number of sanctuaries, but there are never enough for all of them. We would like to be

one of those facilities but to do so we need your help with fundraising and volunteering. Those of us who are active in this group cannot do this alone.

Finally, a word about grammar: As I always used to remind my students when I was teaching, animals are **somebodies** not **some things**. Chairs, tables, books, and cars are **things** but any living, feeling creature is a **somebody** just as we are **somebodies**. Additionally, an animal is not an *it*. Animals have gender, just as we do, therefore they are *hes* and *shes* not *its*.

We have come so far, but we have so far to go because every single animal matters. Won’t you join us?

Until they speak to everyone as clearly as we hear them through our hearts, there is a great and urgent need for you to join with us in becoming a Voice for Animals.

For all the animals,

Caryl McIntire Edwards



Vegan Cupcakes

- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 cups almond milk
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup coconut oil, warmed until liquid
- 1 1/4 teaspoons vanilla extract

(175 degrees C). Grease two 12 cup muffin pans or line with 18 paper baking cups. Measure the apple cider vinegar into a 2 cup measuring cup. Fill with almond milk to make 1 1/2 cups. Let stand until curdled, about 5 minutes. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, whisk together the almond milk mixture, coconut oil and vanilla. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and stir just until blended. Spoon the batter into the prepared cups, dividing evenly. Bake in the preheated oven until the tops spring back when lightly pressed, 15 to 20 minutes. Cool in the pan set over a wire rack. When cool, arrange the cupcakes on a serving platter. Frost with desired frosting.

- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup applesauce
- 1/2 cup soy milk
- 1/4 cup agave nectar

2 tablespoons canola oil
 Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Lightly grease a muffin pan. Combine the cornmeal, flour, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl; stir in the applesauce, soy milk, and agave nectar. Slowly add the oil while stirring. Pour the mixture into the muffin pan. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick or small knife inserted in the crown of a muffin comes out clean, 15 to 20 minutes.



Vegan Agave Cornbread

- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 1/2 cup whole-wheat pastry

HSUS Praises SeaWorld for Committing to End Breeding of Orcas

Today's Announcement, Made with The HSUS, Includes a Series of Other Ground-Breaking Animal Welfare and Conservation Reforms

In a dramatic shift that signals an eventual end to the practice of keeping captive orcas for public exhibition, SeaWorld announced it would cease all of its orca breeding programs for the company's nearly 30 whales. This [action](#) will make the current group the last generation of SeaWorld's orcas. The Humane Society of the United States, which worked with SeaWorld on these new policies, praised its reforms as a major step forward toward a humane economy in which corporations respond and adapt to public concerns over animal welfare.



"These two organizations have been long-time adversaries, but we're excited now to see the company transforming its operations for the better on animal welfare," [said](#) Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS. "Today's announcement signals that the era of captive display of orcas will end and that SeaWorld will redouble its work around rescue and rehabilitation of marine mammals in crisis and partner with us to tackle global threats to marine creatures."

The HSUS has long been critical of keeping orcas and dolphins in captivity, and has clashed with SeaWorld for more than two decades. Of SeaWorld's orcas, 23 were born in captivity. SeaWorld ended live capture of orcas and other marine mammals from the wild years ago, and reaffirmed that commitment today.

"SeaWorld takes seriously its responsibility to preserve marine wildlife. As one of the largest rescue organizations in the world, we will increase our focus on rescue operations—so that the thousands of stranded marine mammals like dolphins and sea lions that cannot be released back to the wild will have a place to go," said Joel Manby, president and CEO of SeaWorld.

"Together with HSUS, and with our 20 million guests and 20,000 employees we can build an army of advocates to protect animals and wild places."

SeaWorld has weathered strong currents of public criticism since the release of the 2013 documentary "Blackfish," and today's announcement comes in the wake of increasing pressure and calls on the company to end captive orca performance at its parks.

"This is a first, massive step forward toward a more humane future for SeaWorld," said Dr. Naomi Rose, marine mammal scientist at the Animal Welfare Institute and formerly with The HSUS. "I welcome these commitments from Joel Manby. He has given SeaWorld a new lease on life."

"This is a defining moment. The fact that SeaWorld is doing away with orca breeding marks truly meaningful change," said Gabriela Cowperthwaite, director of "Blackfish."

The announcement with SeaWorld exemplifies The HSUS's approach to act as a catalyst and contributor to the adoption of more humane practices by the corporate sector.

Through collaboration or confrontation, or sometimes a combination of the two, The HSUS has worked in recent years to secure substantial animal welfare commitments from companies working within food and agriculture, cosmetics and chemical manufacturing, fashion, the pet industry, animals in entertainment, and other sectors. In addition to its new policies for orcas, SeaWorld has committed to:

- 1 Maximizing its focus on rescue and rehabilitation of marine animals in distress and highlighting the plight of unreleasable animals to foster a stronger bond between humans and animals and to educate people about ongoing threats to them.
- 2 Participating in advocacy campaigns to end the commercial slaughter of marine mammals. Specifically, SeaWorld plans to advocate for an end to commercial whaling and sealing and to fight shark finning throughout the world. We expect the company will weigh in on a range of other issues that adversely affect the lives of marine creatures.
- 3 Revamping its food policies by changing its procurement practices to source only sustainably raised seafood, crate-free pork and cage-free eggs, and to offer more vegan and vegetarian options at all of its restaurants and other food service operations, which serve more than 20 million people annually.
- 4 Protecting coral reefs and reducing the commercial collection of wild-caught ornamental fish.

It was almost exactly a year ago that Ringling Bros. pledged it would phase out its use of elephants in traveling acts – a game-changing announcement for the use of wild animals in circuses. Today's announcement by SeaWorld is also tremendously significant and marks a turning point in the movement to phase out the use of orca for captive display.

Media Contact: Naseem Amini, namini@humanesociety.org, 240-778-5545



There are numerous reasons why it is important to get your cat spayed. Getting your cat spayed is your responsibility as a pet owner and spaying/ neutering prevents overpopulation. Overpopulation results in many unwanted cats who are left homeless to re-populate and suffer against harsh climates, starvation, and the high risk of predation.

Unspayed cats are likely to suffer from “Pyometra”- a severe uterus infection. When cats go into heat, the dramatic change of hormones can result in overstimulation of uterine cells which causes cysts. These cysts lead to heavy bacteria counts and E.coli infections and pus within the uterus. Pyometra is life-threatening and can be an extremely painful and slow death.

Most of the time when cats are not spayed, it is due to financial concerns. We need to educate our pet lovers and inform them that there are numerous clinics all over the nation that offer free or low-cost spay/ neuter procedures!

Going back to overpopulation- an unspayed cat will often have 1-8 kittens per litter and can have 2-3 litters in a year. When factoring these numbers into a cats average life span, we find that one female cat can produce over 100 kittens. In just 7 years, one pair of cats and the kittens they produce can result in 420,000 kittens!!!

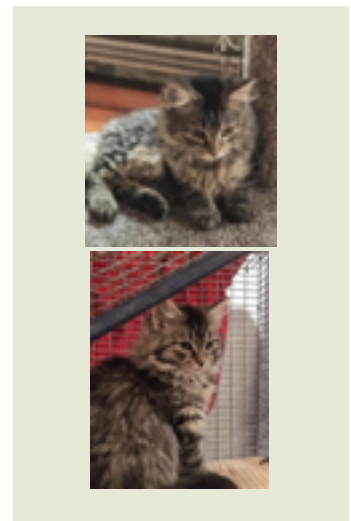




Meet the B-babies: Bubbles, Buttercup and Buster. They are beautiful and playful kittens looking for their forever home. This trio was born under a barn and spent the first 8 weeks of their life learning to survive without the help of people. When brought inside, they were scared and defensive of people. They have come a long way over the past few months. Their foster mom and dad have been working with them everyday to gain their trust.

They are still on the shy side, especially with strangers, but would have great potential in a patient home. They would do best in a quiet home with older (13+), respectful children. These kittens have gone through a lot together and would love to have a home together or, at least, another kitty to share their home with. Bubbles and Buttercup are females and Buster is a male. Please email vfarc@comcast.net for

more information on the B-babies.



Tulip is a beautiful and petite girl. She is about 1 year old, weighs only 5 pounds and was part of a colony that VFA is working to trap-neuter-return. While Tulip was being held to recover from surgery it quickly became apparent that she belonged in a home with people and not a candidate to return to the colony. Tulip was communicating with meows, coming to the front of the cage and

rubbing into her foster mother's hand by the second day of being with her. She is still shy and tends to hide until she determines it is safe to venture forward to meet someone new. We think this little girl will do fine in a quiet adult home or one with older (13+) children. With proper introductions, Tulip should get along fine with other cats and with dogs

For more information on this pretty girl please email: vfarc@comcast.net



Cutie Boy Carson is a sweet boy who was supposed to be returned to a feral colony after being neutered. He is so sweet and mellow, it is obvious he does not belong in a feral colony. Cutie Boy belongs in a home where he can get love and attention from people and other cats. He likes to be petted, loves to play and gets along well with other cats. He is just about a year old, neutered and up to date on vaccinations. He is still shy with strangers and may take a little longer to acclimate than some cats but you will find that he is well worth the time. He would do best in a quiet, adult only home or one with older(13+) children. For more information please email:

vfarc@comcast.net



Volunteer! Foster! Fundraise!

We are always looking for volunteers to enable to continue growing and reaching our goal of having our own shelter / property in the future.

Please contact us if you are interested in helping with setting up:

- Silent auction
- Rabies clinic
- Photography
- Newsletter articles
- Fundraisers

And as always.....

we need foster families!

The more foster families
and approved homes that
we have, the more
animals we can save!

