

ARFF news

for the Florida animal advocate

Spring 2010

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nanci Alexander
President

Caren Lesser
Vice President

Laura Guttridge
Secretary/Treasurer

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Former U.S. Congressman
Peter Deutsch, 20th District

U.S. Congressman
Alcee Hastings, 23rd District

Former U.S. Congressman
Robert Wexler, 19th District

Cathleen Anderson
Former City Commissioner,
City of Hollywood
President, Animal Birth Control

Stedman "Ted" Carr, D.V.M.

Doris Day
Actress, President
Doris Day Animal League

Jay Ferber, D.V. M.

Scott Fuerst, Esq.
Partner, Ruden, McClosky
Smith, Schuster & Russell, PA

Pam Huizenga

Ingrid Newkirk
President, PETA

IN MEMORIAM
Cleveland Amory

Animal Rights Foundation of Florida
1431 North Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
Phone: (954) 727-ARFF
Fax: (954) 615-5643
E-mail: arff@arff.org

Florida's wild pigs

Among the earliest visitors to Florida

In the early 1500s, years before the City of St. Augustine was founded, and three hundred years before Florida became a state, a herd of pigs arrived in the Tampa Bay area on the ships of Spanish conquistadors. Today, descendants of these pigs can be found in every one of Florida's 67 counties.

Considering this history, it is puzzling that wild pigs are considered nonnative, "nuisance" wildlife. Wild pigs are among the most demonized animals in Florida, and routinely suffer cruel treatment at the hands of hunters and trappers.

Wild pigs are intelligent, adaptable animals who can live to be more than 10 years old. Despite their sharp tusks and large size (they can weigh more than 200 pounds), wild pigs are wary of humans. Wild pigs travel in small herds organized around a few females and their offspring. But you'll probably hear them before you see them. Wild pigs are very vocal and communicate with each other with grunts and squeals.

Wild pigs are omnivorous and will eat almost anything, from acorns and berries to roots and grubs. Sometimes their search for food takes them to a golf course or residential neighborhood, where they root through the ground with their snouts. Wild pigs have been blamed for harming Florida's environment, although most of the damage reported to be caused by wild pigs rooting and foraging for food is to citrus farms, pastures and other habitats created by humans. Contrary to popular belief, wild pigs do not carry disease that is easily transmissible to humans.

It is unrealistic to attempt to turn the clock back to the year 1500. Wild pigs should be accepted as part of Florida's wildlife. Protecting nature is never an excuse for violence against animals.

Did you know? Wild pigs are a very important source of food for the endangered Florida panther.

Continued on page 2



Photo by Craig O'Neal

Florida's wild pigs (continued)

Hunting. ARFF is opposed to all bloodsports— the recreational killing and maiming of animals— but the hunting of wild pigs is particularly barbaric. Wild pigs are sometimes shot by “still” hunters waiting in a tree stand, but more common is the use of dogs to find, chase and viciously attack pigs. (Florida’s law against animal fighting exempts the use of dogs to hunt wild pigs.) Upon finding a pig, a dog pack will chase the animal until he or she is exhausted. Hunters follow on foot or in swamp buggies. Before the dogs are restrained, the pig can suffer horrible injuries. (Dogs can also be badly injured.) Occasionally, a wounded pig will escape, only to later die a lingering death. Hunters crudely kill pigs with knives, as a firearm would endanger their dogs. Other inhumane weapons sometimes used to kill pigs include spears and swords! Hunters will often castrate a young male pig, without anesthesia, before releasing him. The hunters believe that the animal will grow fatter and have better-tasting flesh, when captured in the future.

Trapping. Because it is illegal to shoot guns within the limits of most Florida cities, it is common for trappers to be hired to live-trap wild pigs. Pigs often bloody themselves trying to escape the cage traps. The trapped pigs may be killed for barbecues (see below), or sold to hunting ranches.

You Can Help

We need to learn to coexist with all wildlife. Wild pigs are part of the Florida landscape and are here to stay.

- Contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and urge them to ban the use of inhumane weapons, such as spears and swords, to hunt wild pigs or any animal in Florida. Also, ask the FWC to prohibit the practice of castrating young male pigs without anesthesia.

Rodney Barreto, Chairman
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

- If you see an article in your local newspaper about hog-hunting, please respond with a letter to the editor. Animals need you to speak up in their defense! (If your letter is published, please send ARFF a copy.)
- Contact ARFF if your community is considering hiring a trapper to remove wild pigs. Although wild pigs, as with all wildlife, can sometimes pose unwelcome challenges, there are always humane methods of resolving conflicts between humans and wildlife effectively. For example, fencing can be effective in excluding wild pigs from yards and gardens.

A slaughterhouse by another name?

When homeowners in a Palm City neighborhood heard gunshots in a wooded lot near their homes, they investigated and learned that a company had set up a facility to hold and kill wild pigs. All County Hog Removal live-traps wild pigs from land in St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach Counties, holds them in a pen on the wooded lot in Palm City, and then kills and sells the animals (whole or quartered) for food. They deny that the operation is a “slaughterhouse.” The pigs are killed with a gun shot to the head. The neighbors have taken their concerns to the Martin County Commission, but it appears that the business is operating legally.

You Can Help

Please write to the Martin County Commission and urge them to enact regulations concerning the holding and killing of animals for food. Regulations are needed to ensure humane care of the animals and proper waste management. Also, ask the Commission to enact a ban on *future* slaughterhouses in the county.

Doug Smith, Chairman
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996

E-mail commissioners through the county website, www.martin.fl.us

Would this be allowed in your community? Several cities in Florida, including DeLand, Sanford, Miami Springs and Hollywood, have ordinances banning slaughterhouses. Contact ARFF for help in enacting a slaughterhouse ban in your hometown.

2010 Legislative Session: Busy in Tallahassee

The 2010 Legislative Session began on March 2. This year in Tallahassee, legislators are debating a number of important issues, including the following bills that would help animals in Florida:

Senate Bill 318 / House Bill 709 – Stop the trade in exotic reptiles

Senate Bill 318, introduced by State Senator Eleanor Sobel, and House Bill 709, introduced by State Representative Trudi Williams, would make it illegal in Florida to import, sell, breed or possess several species of large reptiles, including the Burmese python, anaconda and Nile monitor (a person who currently possesses one of these reptiles would be allowed to keep the animal for the remainder of that animal's life). The legislation would "turn off the spigot, stopping the flow of dangerous reptiles into the State," Sen. Sobel said in a press release.

Senate Bill 104 / House Bill 1611 – Protect animals from sexual predation

Senate Bill 104, introduced by State Senator Nan Rich, and House Bill 1611, introduced by State Representative Jim Waldman, would prohibit sexual contact with animals. If passed, Florida would join the majority of U.S. states that have taken a proactive approach to protecting animals from sexual predation. In recent years, there have been several disturbing cases of sexual abuse of animals in Florida. Shockingly, bestiality has not yet been expressly outlawed in Florida.

Senate Bill 2372 / House Bill 1221 – Surcharge to subsidize spay & neuter

Senate Bill 2372, introduced by State Senator Nan Rich, and House Bill 1221, introduced by State Representative Scott Randolph, would require county's or municipalities in Florida to collect a \$15 surcharge for each violation of an ordinance relating to animal cruelty or control. Most of the surcharge would be used to subsidize the costs of spaying or neutering dogs and cats in the community.

Senate Bill 1708 / House Bill 765 – Unlawful slaughter of horses

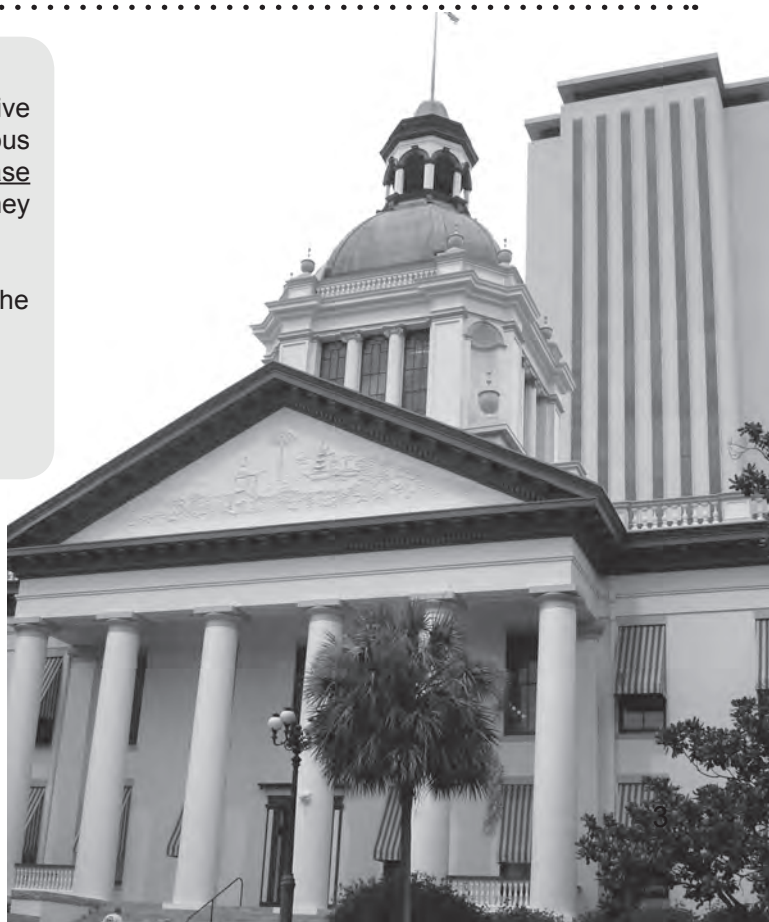
Senate Bill 1708, introduced by State Senator Victor Crist and HB 765, introduced by State Representatives Luis Garcia, Jr. and Joseph Abruzzo, would strengthen the State of Florida's restrictions on the sale of horsemeat for human consumption, and increase criminal penalties related to the unlawful slaughter of horses. If passed, the sale or purchase of horsemeat from unlicensed slaughterhouses would be expressly prohibited (currently, there are no slaughterhouses in Florida licensed to slaughter horses). The legislation would also increase penalties for the unlawful killing of a horse. Since the beginning of 2009, there has been a disturbing increase in the illegal slaughter of horses for their flesh in Miami-Dade County and elsewhere in Florida.

You Can Help

Each of these bills has made progress during the 2010 Legislative Session (several of the bills have passed committees with unanimous votes!). We need your help to keep up the momentum. [Please contact your state senator and state representative](#) and ask that they support the bills mentioned above.

To find your elected officials, visit myFloridaHouse.gov and click the "Find Your Representative" button. Or contact ARFF for help.

April 30 is the last day of the Session. Visit ARFF's website for updates on animal-related legislation.



Vegan outreach

Every Saturday night in Miami Beach, and almost every weekend in the Orlando area, ARFF volunteers educate the public about the hidden cruelty of the meat, dairy and egg industries. In Miami Beach, video footage, posters and literature combined with the high-volume and open-minded crowd gives ARFF a unique opportunity to empower citizens to make conscious, healthy and humane choices. For ARFF activists in Central Florida, art festivals, parades and other community events are opportunities to hit the streets and speak out for animals!

Please take advantage of these rewarding opportunities. Meat, dairy & eggs are cruel, unhealthy and are collectively destroying the planet. Help ARFF spread compassion. Your voice is needed!

You Can Help

Miami Beach

When: Every Saturday night, from 7:30pm to 11:30pm

Location: SW corner of Lincoln Road and Meriden Avenue (outside of the South Florida Art Center), Miami Beach.

Contact: amanda@arff.org or (954) 727-2733 with questions or to RSVP.

Orlando

Contact ArffCentralFl@arff.org or visit ARFF's website for details of upcoming outreach events in Central Florida.

ARFF volunteers distribute vegan food samples to busy lunch crowds in downtown Orlando in March.



Bullhooks: bad for elephants, not welcome in St. Lucie County!

On January 26, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners voted 5-0 to approve a plan by the National Elephant Center, a partnership of over 70 U.S. zoos, to create an elephant holding and breeding facility on land at the western edge of the county (the Center is *not* a sanctuary). The commissioner's unanimous vote came with a number of conditions, the most important being that no bullhooks will be allowed on the premises.

A bullhook is a weapon that resembles a fireplace poker that is used to strike, stab, hook, prod and intimidate elephants into obedience. Bullhooks are commonly used by circuses, but most U.S. zoos that have elephants have eliminated bullhooks and now rely on a safer and more humane elephant handling method that relies on positive reinforcement only.

The vote by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commission was a strong statement that the use of bullhooks can never be humane. Unfortunately, the National Elephant Center is apparently not willing to give up the bullhook. The Center is threatening to cancel the project and start from scratch somewhere else outside of St. Lucie County if the bullhook ban is not overturned.



You Can Help

Please contact the commissioners and thank them for their compassionate vote prohibiting bullhooks at the National Elephant Center. Urge them to hold firm to the conditions agreed to at the January 26 meeting. Waste Management is one of the main financial backers of the National Elephant Center (the center will be built on Waste Management land). Please contact Waste Management and urge them to support the commissioners' decision and not allow bullhooks on any property owned by Waste Management.

Charles Grande, Chairman
St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
Online comment form: www.stlucieco.gov/contact_us.asp

David Steiner, CEO
Waste Management, Inc.
1001 Fannin, Suite 4000
Houston, TX 77002
E-mail: WMCares@wm.com

Snake import ban proposed: Have your say!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a rule to designate the Burmese python, boa constrictor and seven other large constrictor snakes as “injurious wildlife” under the Lacey Act. If finalized, the designation will prohibit the importation and interstate transportation of these species.

Before a final decision is made, the proposed rule is open for public comment until May 11.

The proposed rule was based on a U.S. government study that determined these snakes threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems in Florida. “We greatly value the public’s input and encourage engagement into this rulemaking process. The control of invasive species, including pythons and other large constrictor snakes, is a key step in our larger effort to restore the Everglades and protect other vulnerable areas of the country,” said Rowan Gould, acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



You Can Help

It is very important for the USFWS to hear from Floridians about this proposed rule. Please submit a brief comment in support of designating these potentially dangerous snakes as “injurious wildlife.” Stopping the import and interstate trade in these animals would benefit animal welfare, improve public safety and protect Florida’s fragile environment.

You may submit comments until May 11 by one of the following methods:

- Follow this link: <http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#submitComment?R=0900006480abc25c> or, go to www.regulations.gov and follow the instructions for submitting comments to Docket No. FWS-R9-FHC-2008-0015.

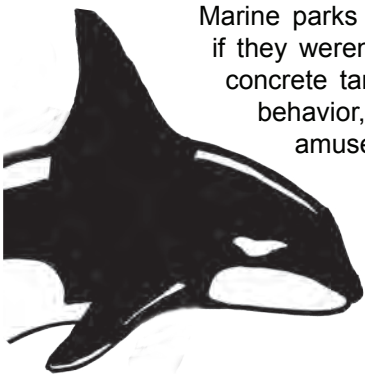
- U.S. mail:

Public Comments Processing
Attn: Docket No. FWS-R9-FHC-2008-0015
Division of Policy and Directives Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222
Arlington, VA 22203

What’s next for Tillikum the killer whale?

A trainer’s death in February at SeaWorld in Orlando was a reminder why marine parks should never be patronized.

ARFF has campaigned for two decades against keeping marine mammals captive in small, cement pools their whole lives. A few years ago ARFF purchased a billboard on Florida’s Turnpike north of Orlando that featured a picture of a captive dolphin and the words, “Missing her family, the ocean, her freedom. A pool is not a home.”



Marine parks like to tell audiences that dolphins and whales wouldn’t perform if they weren’t happy. But as news gets out about traumatic captures, barren concrete tanks, high mortality rates, and aberrant—even dangerous—animal behavior, people are beginning to realize that hidden behind the glitz of marine amusement parks is an industry built on suffering.

If you know anyone planning to visit a marine park this summer, please explain why they should not.

You Can Help


Send an e-mail to The Blackstone Group, a private-equity firm that owns SeaWorld, asking them to retire Tillikum from performance and return him to his home, the ocean. E-mail: info@blackstone.com

Another banner year opposing Ringling Bros.

Thanks to the support of our volunteers ARFF completed another successful year of demonstrations outside of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in West Palm Beach, Sarasota, Miami, Orlando, Tampa and other cities in Florida. With your help, ARFF unwelcomed Ringling Bros. using video, posters and banners, literature, costumes and other props to put a spotlight on the hidden cruelty under the big top.

After watching video footage of Ringling trainers beating and hooking elephants, reading through a flier, or learning first-hand what a bullhook is, many circus patrons pledged never to attend the circus again. Our protests were covered by several media outlets.

Right: Opening night in downtown Miami was a record success with over 80 activists lining the streets! *Below:* ARFF's circus display inside the downtown Orlando library (the display was up for the entire month of January).



Art show benefit
This year, make your Mother's Day gift even more meaningful by purchasing a beautiful work of art to help the animals!

When: Sunday, May 2, 2010 beginning at 5:30pm
Where: Sublime Restaurant (Fort Lauderdale)

ARFF is excited to announce our first-ever art showing. Each piece of art on display will be available for purchase, with 100% of proceeds to benefit ARFF. Show attendees receive 10% off dinner at Sublime that evening! Please RSVP to amanda@arff.org or (954) 727-2733 by April 28.



ARFF t-shirt sale!

New design. Organic cotton and vegan ink. T-shirts are \$15 each, or free with your membership donation of \$50 or more. ARFF is also offering a special on older ARFF t-shirts at half price (\$7.50). Older shirts feature an assortment of messages. Contact amanda@arff.org or (954) 727-2733 for more information.

ARFF in the media: Winter 2009-2010

ARFF's concerns about the health of the Bahia Shiner's camel was the subject of an article in the Orlando Sentinel — An ARFF spokesperson was quoted in a story in the Bradenton Herald about federal legislation to restrict the trade in Burmese pythons and other large constrictor snakes — ARFF's viewpoint was included in a Gainesville Sun editorial about the python legislation — An article in the Daily Commercial about potentially dangerous large reptiles quoted an ARFF spokesperson — ARFF's objections to a New Year's Eve party at a sushi restaurant in Mount Dora that was to feature an ape and leopard were featured in a story in the Orlando Sentinel — An Orlando Sentinel blog noted ARFF's efforts to enact an anti-chaining ordinance in Seminole County — ARFF's objection to the killing of chickens during an agriculture class at Hawthorne High School was featured in a story in the Gainesville Sun — ARFF's protest of the Liebling Brothers Circus at a flea market in Kissimmee was covered by the Osceola News-Gazette — The Miami Herald, Miami New Times and WPLG Ch. 10 covered ARFF's protest of the Ringling Bros. circus in Miami — The Lakeland Ledger covered ARFF's protest of the Ringling Bros. circus in Lakeland — ARFF spokespersons were quoted in several articles in The St. Lucie News Tribune about the National Elephant Center — ARFF's Campaigns Coordinator was interviewed by WPBF Ch. 25 about the killing of a trainer by an orca at SeaWorld in Orlando — ARFF's Communications Director joined The Daily Buzz, a nationally syndicated morning TV news show, to talk about the SeaWorld incident — An ARFF spokesperson was quoted in stories in the Palm Beach Post and Sun-Sentinel about an incident in Wellington in which a caged jaguar bit off a woman's thumb.

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations to Pat McCarthy, Laura Guttridge, Chris Brown, Lilliana Torreh-Bayouth, Don Anthony, Kathryn Louise, Jim Dunn, John Amato, Keith Berger, Steve Renzi, Jake Simmons, Charles Brightman, Carla Wilson, Nan Vollbracht, Judith Fish and Vera Kramer for letters published in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Vero Beach Press Journal, Marco Eagle, Miami Herald, Sun-Sentinel, Daytona Beach News-Journal, Naples Daily News, St. Lucie News Tribune, Herald-Sun (Durham, NC), Pensacola News Journal, Seminole Chronicle, Orlando Sentinel and the St. Augustine Record. *Did you have a letter published in your local newspaper? Please let ARFF know!*

Visit ARFF online:

www.arff.org

blog.animalrightsflorida.org

facebook.com/animalsflorida

VegSouthFlorida.com

memorials & accolades

In memory of Kitty Shnapier, mother of Nanci Alexander
from Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kaplan

In memory of Aunt Kitty
from Barbara & Gil Gilbert

In honor of Jody Morganstine Schultz and her birthday
from Diane & Jerry Hoffman

Mail to:

Animal Rights Foundation of Florida
1431 N. Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304

Questions? Phone: (954) 727-ARFF E-mail: arff@arff.org

The Animal Rights Foundation of Florida is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of: *(contributions are tax-deductible)*

☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

For contributions of \$50 or more, you are eligible to receive a free t-shirt (please specify size): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Join our e-mail list! E-mail is the best way for us to reach our members with notices of upcoming events and urgent action items.

I have a particular interest or strength in: _____

Please charge the above amount to my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Shrine Circuses: Deceiving donors and abusing animals

This year ARFF will be holding demonstrations outside of Shrine circuses in Palm Beach Gardens and Orlando, and at the Florida Shrine Association convention in Ocala.

The Shriners Hospitals for Children, a separate organization from the Shrine temples, do good work, providing free medical care to needy patients across the country—but less than 2 percent of the hospitals' budgets come from money raised by Shrine temples. The small print on Shrine circus tickets usually make it clear that proceeds from the circus fund temple activities, not the hospitals (tickets are not considered charitable contributions).



Palm Beach Gardens

Amara Shrine circus

When: Saturday, April 3 at 1:30 and 6:00pm

Where: 3650 RCA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens (east of I-95, south of PGA Blvd.)

Orlando

Bahia Shrine circus

When:

Saturday, April 24 at 11:30am and 4:30pm

Sunday, April 25 at 11:30am and 4:30pm

Where: University of Central Florida (UCF) arena, Orlando

Ocala

Florida Shrine Association Convention

When: Thursday, May 6 at 8:30am

Where: Ocala Shrine Club, 4301 S.E. Maricamp Road, Ocala

Can't make it to a demonstration? You can still help! Visit ARFF's website for a list of Shrine temples in Florida that sponsor animal circuses. Please contact the Potentate, or chief executive, at the temple near you and urge him to replace circuses with non-animal fundraisers.

arff 
animal rights foundation of florida
1431 North Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Permit #1472

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED