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Animal Rights Foundation of Florida
1431 North Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
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E-mail: arff@arff.org

Dogs don't want to be your security system

Most businesses protect their property with locks, fences, lights, cameras and security guards. Unfortunately, a few still turn to dogs. The life of a guard dog is one of loneliness and neglect. These dogs suffer through all types of weather extremes.

A recent article in the [Palm Beach Post](#) described the plight of dogs who are used to guard used car lots and junk yards. These are dogs who never know a family, a run in the park, or a nap on a bed. They are left, in solitude, all night. During the day while the business is open, they're frequently locked in cages from sunup to sundown. Often food and water are denied, while they swelter in poorly ventilated boxes.

Palm Beach County's ordinance only requires that dogs be removed from cages once every 12 hours; "adequate ventilation" must be provided once the temperature hits 90 degrees. These rules do not address the basic needs of any dog. As insufficient as these regulations are, they are among the best in Florida!

You Can Help

If you live in Palm Beach County, please send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners (find contact details here: www.pbcgov.com/countycommissioners). If not, please write to your county commissioners. Ask for new regulations, such as:

- A cage or room adequately ventilated at all times that is large enough for the dog to turn around in and perform natural behaviors;
- A maximum of 8 hours in the cage that includes a 15 minute walk every 4 hours;
- Food at least twice a day and fresh water at all times;
- If outside, shade must be provided;
- Companies that rent out guard dogs should supply the county with a list of the companies that are using the dogs so that animal control can visit and inspect the conditions under which the dogs are living. In addition, the facility from which the dogs are rented must be inspected to meet minimum county standards.

If you know of a guard dog who is being abused or neglected, please take action. You may be the animal's only hope.



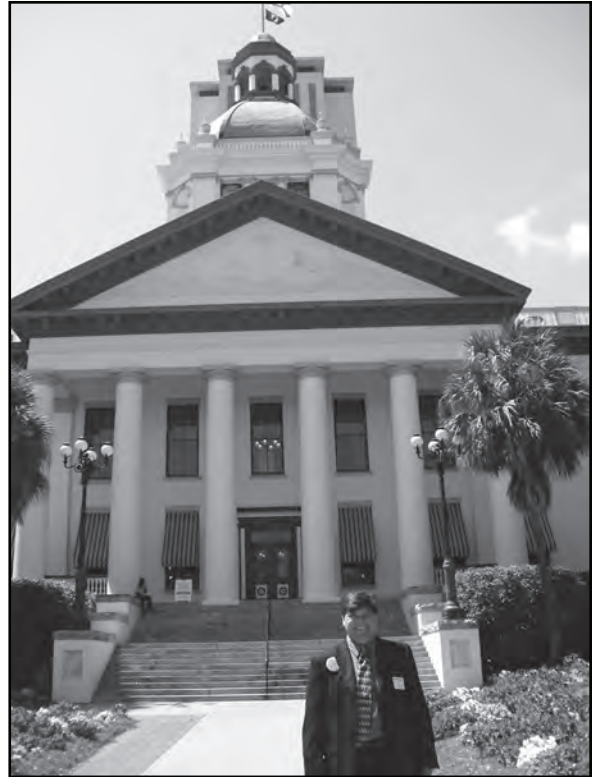
Photo by Patrick Potts

Good news from Tallahassee

The 2010 Legislative Session ended on April 30. We are happy to report that two important bills that will help animals in Florida—bills that we asked you to support—were approved and signed by the governor.

Stopping the trade in exotic reptiles. On June 3, Governor Charlie Crist signed Senate Bill 318. The bill will stop the breeding, sale and trade of Burmese pythons, African rock pythons, anaconda and Nile monitors, among other “reptiles of concern” in Florida. (A person who currently possesses one of these reptiles would be allowed to keep the animal for the remainder of that animal’s life.) This important legislation will improve public safety, protect Florida’s fragile environment and benefit animal welfare. During the 2010 legislative session, the bill passed both the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate with unanimous votes. ARFF congratulates State Senator Eleanor Sobel and State Representative Trudi Williams, who introduced the legislation.

Horse protection. Since the beginning of 2009, there have been several disturbing cases of horses illegally killed for their flesh in Miami-Dade County and elsewhere in Florida. Senate Bill 1708 and House Bill 765, which also passed the Florida Senate and House of Representatives with unanimous votes, increases penalties for the unlawful killing of a horse. The legislation also strengthens the State of Florida’s restrictions on the sale of horsemeat for human consumption. The changes will take effect on July 1, 2010. Thanks to State Senator Victor Crist, State Representative Luis Garcia, Jr. and State Representative Joseph Abruzzo for introducing this legislation.



ARFF Coordinator Bryan Wilson in Tallahassee where he lobbied in support of animal protection bills

Bad news, but there’s always next year!

Unfortunately, not every pro-animal bill passed this year in Tallahassee.

Protecting animals from sexual abuse. For the third year in a row, Florida legislators failed to enact a ban on sexual contact with animals. In the Florida Senate, a bill introduced by State Senator Nan Rich was unanimously approved by four committees and the full Senate. The bill was sent to the Florida House of Representatives, but did not come up for a vote before the session ended.

Senator Rich has led the effort to make bestiality a crime in Florida, and she deserves our thanks.
E-mail: rich.nan.web@flsenate.gov.

Spay/neuter surcharge. Legislation introduced by State Senator Nan Rich and State Representative Scott Randolph would have required county’s and municipalities in Florida to collect a \$15 surcharge for each violation of an ordinance relating to animal cruelty or control. The surcharge would be used to subsidize the costs of spaying or neutering dogs and cats in the community. The bills were approved by several committees, but unfortunately did not make it to the floor of the House or Senate for votes before the session ended. We hope that this bill will be reintroduced next year.

Please thank Senator Rich and Representative Randolph for introducing this legislation.
Senator Nan Rich. E-mail: rich.nan.web@flsenate.gov
Representative Scott Randolph. E-mail: Scott.Randolph@myfloridahouse.gov

Greyhound racing. A last-minute amendment, filed by State Senator Charlie Justice, would have removed the requirement that dog tracks conduct live racing in order to also offer slots or poker. The amendment died for technical reasons, but if it had been approved, many dog tracks in Florida would almost certainly have chosen to end live racing to focus on the more profitable slots and poker.

Thank Senator Justice for introducing this amendment and encourage him to try again next year.
E-mail: justice.charlie.web@flsenate.gov

Tell Palm Beach County public schools to expel the circus!

For-profit circus promoters are committed to getting schools on board with field trips, ticket giveaways and other promotions. ARFF has received several complaints of tickets being distributed in Palm Beach County schools. Animals in the circus are used to sell tickets, not to teach a greater appreciation of nature. Instead, animal acts teach kids that chaining, caging, whipping, beating and humiliating animals is acceptable, which sets an inappropriate example of humankind's responsibility toward animals.

You Can Help

Palm Beach County public schools have the opportunity to act responsibly by adopting a policy not to support circuses which have animal acts, but we need your help!

• Contact the Palm Beach County School District

Express your strong concern regarding the mental and physical toll of circus life on animals, as well as the safety risks—such as rampages, attacks and disease—posed to children in this abusive and dangerous environment. *Contact:*

Arthur Johnson, Ph.D. , Superintendent of Schools
Palm Beach County
3300 Forest Hill Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Monroe Benaim, M.D., Chairman
Palm Beach County School Board
(use above address)
E-mail: BoardOffice@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

• **Palm Beach County residents:** Contact your School Board representative (contact ARFF if you don't know what district you live in). You may use the above mailing address and e-mail address, or the below phone numbers.

Monroe Benaim, M.D. (District 1)
Phone: (561) 748-1136

Paulette Burdick (District 2)
Phone: (561) 434-8137

Bill Graham (District 3)
Phone: (561) 434-8038

Carrie Hill (District 4)
Phone: (561) 434-8137

Frank Barbieri, Jr. Esq. (District 5)
Phone: (561) 434-8136

Dr. Sandra Richmond (District 6)
Phone: (561) 434-8038

Debra Robinson, M.D. (District 7)
Phone: (561) 434-8136



Kim & Natalie Grooms at ARFF's protest of the Cole Bros. Circus in March

• Calling all kids (and parents)!

ARFF is looking for parents and children in Palm Beach County to take action in this campaign. If you are interested in getting more involved, by attending a School Board meeting or helping with outreach and other activities, please e-mail Amanda@arff.org or call (954) 727-2733, ext. 242.

• **Don't live in Palm Beach County?** Please contact ARFF if you know of a school that is distributing circus coupons or promoting the circus in other ways. We can work with you to kick the circus out of schools in your community!

Victories & Updates

Matt Block can't escape his past!

In early May, the Animal Transportation Association—whose members include FedEx, Continental Airlines and other companies that transport animals for zoos, farms and for scientific research—held its annual convention in Fort Lauderdale. Due to speak at the convention about “Global Primate Transport” was Matthew Block—a man ARFF is very familiar with.

In February 1990, workers at Bangkok's international airport heard sounds like the crying of human babies coming from crates labeled “Birds.” On opening the poorly ventilated crates, they found six baby orangutans. Smugglers had stuffed them into the crates and shipped them to Thailand, with the final destination being Moscow. Four of the six babies, three of whom had been shipped upside-down, died. Matt Block, president of Miami-based Worldwide Primates, Inc., was soon identified as a member of the smuggling ring. *(Photo: one of the surviving baby orangutans)*



When Matt Block went on trial for smuggling endangered wildlife, ARFF held demonstrations at the steps of the federal courthouse in Miami. ARFF President Nanci Alexander and other local animal advocates attended Block's court appearances. Block pled guilty to felony charges and was sentenced to 13 months in prison.

Unfortunately, Matt Block returned to the primate business shortly after he got out of prison. Today, Block and his family are one of the largest importers of primates for scientific research. In 2009, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service records, Worldwide Primates, Inc. imported over 1,000 primates—crab-eating macaques, rhesus macaques and other monkeys—from China, Mauritius and elsewhere, to be bred and sold for scientific research.

When ARFF learned of Mr. Block's participation in the conference, we expressed our concerns to the Animal Transportation Association, and scheduled a protest. Shortly before the protest, ARFF learned that due to the controversy created by our planned protest, Matt Block had pulled out of the Animal Transportation Association conference!

Exotic pets no longer for sale at Flamingo Gardens

In late 2009, ARFF received complaints about the “Reptile & Alternative Pet Show,” an event held several times each year at Flamingo Gardens, a botanical garden in Fort Lauderdale. ARFF staff attended one of the shows and found three types of boa constrictors on sale—including Colombian boas that can grow to 10 feet in length—in addition to ball pythons, iguanas, tegu (large, carnivorous lizards native to South America that are increasingly found in Florida) and many other exotic snakes, spiders and turtles.

ARFF contacted Flamingo Gardens and urged them to end their involvement in the sale of non-native reptiles and other exotic pets. We explained that due to their low cost and small size, animals such as ball pythons and iguanas are often purchased by individuals who lack the knowledge and resources to properly care for them. Unfortunately, once these reptiles become too large or expensive to care for, they are often abandoned or released into the wild. Others live miserable lives inside a glass aquarium.

We are happy to report that after hearing from ARFF, and many of ARFF's members in Broward County, Flamingo Gardens decided to no longer host such events. And even better, an event hosted by Flamingo Gardens in June explored the threat that escaped and released exotic reptiles pose to Florida's environment.

Another venue pulls the welcome mat from Liebling Bros. Circus

The Liebling Bros. Circus, and their sad elephant “Nosey,” had been a regular visitor to the Renninger's flea market in Mount Dora. In April, following a weekend of performances by the circus, ARFF representatives discussed the circus with Renninger's manager and was assured that the circus would not be invited back in the future.

Earlier this year, the North Lake Flea Market in Fruitland Park confirmed that the Liebling Bros. Circus would not be invited back after a monkey escaped from his cage before a performance at the market in 2009.

Maude the elephant deserves a happy retirement

Mary, one of two elephants at the Central Florida Zoo, died in March at age 63. Mary's death left her companion of 27 years, Maude, facing an uncertain future.

Because the Association of Zoos & Aquariums strongly discourages keeping female elephants alone, the Central Florida Zoo has started looking for a new home for Maude. Instead of relocating Maude to another zoo, where she would be stuck in another small and unnatural exhibit, ARFF feels that Maude deserves retirement to a large, natural-habitat elephant sanctuary, such as The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, or the PAWS sanctuary in California, where she could enjoy natural conditions and elephant companions of her choosing.



You Can Help

Please contact the zoo and politely request that they seriously consider moving Maude to an elephant sanctuary. *Contact:*

Joe Montisano, CEO
Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens
P.O. Box 470309
Lake Monroe, FL 32747
E-mail: information@centralfloridazoo.org
Phone: (407) 323-4450

ARFF's humane education program: making a difference

ARFF's humane education program continues to reach thousands of children in school classrooms and at summer camps with a message of compassion toward animals and the planet. Below is a letter that ARFF's Humane Educator, James Wildman, received from an 8th grader attending Deerfield Beach Middle School.

Hey Mr. Wildman, my name is Lee, you probably remember me from DBMS if not that's ok, I wanted to say thank you for informing me about animal abuse. Before you came I had no idea the animals were being treated in such a foul, and barbaric manner. You have really opened up my eyes and now I feel like going out into the world and aware everybody about animal rights. I feel like how could people not realize how animals are being treated, how could they watch animals that have been taken away from their natural habitat, be put into an enclosed area and call that entertainment? But then again I used to be just like everyone else. I think people are being brainwashed to make us believe we live in a perfect world but behind closed doors it's a whole other story. I wish there were more people like you that way everyone would be aware of the cruelty that is going on. That's why you've inspired me to grow up to be someone that helps animals (not a vet) and along the way I will do my best to inform people I meet and tell them the importance of being kind to our animals. Animals deserve a lot more than what we give them because animals are angels, they have no evil in them what so ever but we do.

Animals are a gift from god and by disrespecting animals we're kind of disrespecting god don't you think? Like the saying goes God loved the birds and made trees. Humans loved the birds and made cages.

That is my favorite saying because it shows how people can be so mean. I think only until humans and animals live in peace only then will we be living in a perfect world. Thank you for changing my perspective on the world you have really inspired me. I'm going to Deerfield High in IB and I hope to see you there next year, if not I'll try to ask my teachers about you.

ARFF offers free presentations on the ethical solutions and health benefits of veganism every last Sunday of the month at Sublime restaurant in Fort Lauderdale. For details, or to schedule a presentation at your school, club or organization, please contact James at (954) 727-2733 or James@arff.org.



U.S. Congressman Ted Deutch joins ARFF's Board of Advisors

ARFF is honored that Florida's newest Member of Congress has agreed to join our Board of Advisors. In a special election in April, Ted Deutch was elected to replace retiring Rep. Robert Wexler in Florida's 19th congressional district, which includes parts of Palm Beach and Broward counties. Deutch had previously served in the Florida State Senate.

Congressman Deutch was sworn in on April 15 and quickly got to work. He has signed on as co-sponsor of several important animal protection measures, including:

- H.R. 5092, a law to ban the distribution and sale of cruel "crush" videos;
- H.R. 4870, the Healthy School Meals Act, a bill that would help school food service programs serve more fruits, vegetables, and healthy vegetarian meal options;
- H.RES 1420, a resolution congratulating the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) on its 35th anniversary and urging stronger protections for the polar bear, sharks and other endangered species;
- H.R. 669, the Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act, an act to prevent the introduction and establishment of nonnative wildlife species;
- H.R. 2811, an act to ban the interstate commerce and importation of pythons.

ARFF looks forward to working with Rep. Deutch!

Independence for the Animals picnic!

Please join ARFF at our 11th annual old fashioned summertime picnic at beautiful Mead Gardens in Winter Park. Summertime means fun and what better way to spend a summer afternoon than with fellow vegetarians and activists! Join ARFF for an afternoon of fun and games (including games and contests for children), entertainment and delicious vegan food! Bring your friends and family, your favorite vegan dish and join us for this summertime tradition.

When: Saturday, July 3 at 2:00pm (rain or shine)

Where: Mead Garden, 1300 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park

Please RSVP to ArffCentralFl@arff.org.
\$3 donation per person.



Thank you Brad!

Every Saturday night for the past several years, visitors to Lincoln Road, the popular shopping and restaurant district in Miami Beach, have found ARFF volunteers distributing information and showing videos about the cruelty of the meat industry, as well as the advantages of a vegetarian or vegan diet. This was made possible by Brad King, who volunteered to lead the extraordinary outreach effort. *(Photo: Brad was also a regular at ARFF protests, such as against the circus)*

In May, Brad left Florida to follow his dream of opening an animal sanctuary overseas. We wish Brad well and thank him for his many, many hours on behalf of animals in Florida. Vegan outreach continues in Miami Beach; please contact ARFF to get involved.

ARFF in the media: Spring 2010

ARFF's support of state legislation to restrict the trade in exotic reptiles was noted in articles in the Miami Herald and St. Petersburg Times — An ARFF spokesperson was quoted in an article in the Sun-Sentinel about python "hunting" — The Orlando Sentinel reported ARFF's demands that a rancher who starved cows to death be charged with animal cruelty — The Daytona Beach News-Journal covered ARFF's protest of the Cole Bros. Circus in DeLand — The St. Petersburg Times printed excerpts from ARFF's letter to the City of Dunedin objecting to a plan to trap dozens of Muscovy ducks — An ARFF spokesperson was quoted in articles in the Miami Herald and Bradenton Herald about passage of legislation restricting the trade in exotic reptiles — ARFF's Communications Director was interviewed by the St. Augustine Record and WJXT Ch. 4 concerning proposed changes to the city's laws regarding horse-drawn carriages — ARFF's protest against the Miss Florida USA pageant's links with the fur industry was featured in Broward-Palm Beach New Times and on the popular ecorazzi.com blog.

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations to Laura Guttridge, Terry Wilson, Paul McMillan, Charles Brightman, Beverly Colehower, Pamela Mann, Gilbert Schwartz, Judith Fish, Don Anthony, Ken Burke, Vera Kramer, Ron Wentworth and Mark Klang for letters published in the St. Lucie News Tribune, Vero Beach Press Journal, Lakeland Ledger, Florida Times-Union, Pensacola News Journal, Sun Sentinel, Daytona Beach News-Journal, Miami Herald, Ocala Star-Banner, St. Augustine Record and the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. *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

YouTube.com/AnimalsFlorida

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memorials & accolades

In memory of Kutosha,
from K. Maciag

ARFF t-shirts

New design. Organic cotton and vegan ink.
T-shirts are \$15 each, or free with your membership donation of \$50 or more.

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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)*

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

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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.

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Miss Cruelty USA

Again this year, the Fur Information Council of America (FICA) is a sponsor of the Miss Florida USA and Miss Florida Teen USA pageants. Sadly, among the prize lineup for pageant winners are the stolen skins of ruthlessly abused animals.



You Can Help

- Attend a demonstration. In early June, ARFF held a demonstration outside of the pageant's contestant orientation. Our protest was covered by several media outlets, including the award-winning national blog, ecorazzi.com. Please join ARFF as we follow up with another demonstration outside of the pageant finals on Saturday, July 10, 2010 at Broward Community College in Davie. Visit www.arff.org or call (954) 727-2733 for more information.
- Are you a Broward Community College student, intend to be or know someone who is? Help take a stand against fur on campus. Contact ARFF if you are interested in starting a student group, petitioning or demonstrating against BCC's yearly hosting of the pageant finals.
- Speak up for animals abused by the fur industry. Due to the inherent cruelty and the overwhelming evidence of abuse in the industry, the fashion world has turned its back on fur. Many top designers, including Tommy Hilfiger, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, Betsey Johnson and Kenneth Cole, have taken a compassionate, fur-free stand. In addition, fur is not included in rival pageants, such as Miss Florida and Miss Florida Outstanding Teen, or the Miss Florida US International and Miss Teen Florida World pageants. Please take a minute to ask the pageant to make a wise business decision and reconsider their relationship with FICA. *Contact:*

Grant & Mary Lou Gravitt, Pageant Producers
Miss Florida USA / Miss Florida Teen USA
2040 Sherman Street
Hollywood, FL 33020
Phone: (954) 924-4949 / Fax: (954) 924-4980
E-mail: telair@aol.com

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