



*Silence is the
Voice of Complicity
- Speak up for*

MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

2006 FOCUS ISSUE

DOGS CHAINED FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

Last year MFOA sponsored and had passed the first state legislation in the country affecting dogs being left outside unattended. It was a solid step in educating the legislature about the plight of these animals. It has spurred a campaign to increase public and legislative awareness of an issue we think is a sleeping giant among animal protection issues.

One of the most frequent requests MFOA hears from our members is about doing something about what we call “dogs chained for life.” Time and again we get calls about dogs continuously being left outside in inhumane conditions. In our view it is arguably the most pervasive form of animal cruelty that we presently have in the state, especially given Maine winters.

These are canines of all breeds that are tethered outside day after day, night after night, week after week, month after month. Rarely do these chained or tethered dogs receive sufficient care. They suffer from sporadic feedings, overturned water bowls, frozen water bowls, inadequate shelter, inadequate veterinary care if any, and extremes in weather and temperature. The dogs have to eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in a single confined area. They beat down the grass and therefore their ground often consists of nothing more than dirt or mud. In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become raw and covered with sores, the result of improperly fitted collars and the dogs constant yanking and straining to escape confinement.

This miserable existence is only a portion of the story about the abuse these animals suffer. Dogs are pack animals. Since the pack of long ago is gone, we humans have become their pack. When we isolate these animals they suffer immeasurably mentally. Our companion animal friend who craves our attention is left alone without even minimal social time with humans. Due to the bad smells coming from a dog that has never been bathed, chained dogs are further reduced from receiving even minimal affection. There is no sadder sight than these outcast, forlorn, forgotten animals, relegated to the status of lawn ornaments and virtually ignored.

In addition to the psychological damage wrought by continuous chaining, dogs forced to live on a chain make easy targets for other animals, humans and biting insects. A chained animal may also suffer harassment and teasing from insensitive humans.

The story still doesn't end there. The longer the animal is left in these conditions the worst it gets for all involved. An otherwise friendly and docile dog becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious and can become highly aggressive. Dogs feel naturally protective of their only territory; when confronted with a perceived threat, they respond according to their fight-or-flight instinct. A chained dog, unable to take flight, often feels forced to fight, attacking any unfamiliar animal or person who unwittingly wanders into his or her territory. An unsocialized dog can and will lash out at humans, especially children. In 2004, chained dogs attacked and killed or seriously injured at least 21 children in this country.

MFOA's bill made changes in requirements on tethering, collars, length of tether and shelter for these dogs left outside continuously. It is the goal of the 'Dogs Chained For Life' campaign to spend 2006 educating the general public and legislators about this abuse and go back to the next legislature to increase considerations for these animals and provide daily time off the tether, something not done in a state legislature yet. If we are successful perhaps Maine can be a model to other states in treating man's best friend as he deserves to be treated. Please turn to page 7 of this newsletter to see how you can help in our 'Dogs Chained For Life' campaign.



Winter
2006

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**Spread
the word.**

**Copy this
newsletter
and give to
others.**

Message From Director

MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS



Robert Fisk, Jr.

CANDIDATE ALERT

Most non-profits are registered with the federal government as a 501 c3. Maine Friends of Animals is a different type of non-profit, a 501 c4, which allows us to be more politically involved. In particular, we can actively support candidates for public office.

We have in the past supported candidates for the state legislature and have always published a list of animal-friendly State Representatives and Senators. MFOA hopes to expand its efforts in helping to elect animal-friendly legislators and to defeat particularly anti-animal protection legislators.

We want to support existing legislators and already chosen candidates that are animal friendly, but we also want to be proactive in recruiting possible candidates. 2006 is the second year of this legislative session and it begins the political season for the November elections. This summer campaigns begin in earnest, so it is not too soon to seek out possible candidates for the 123rd legislature.

Please take a moment to consider people in your community that you know or think may be animal-friendly. Call them and ask about some animal issues and see whether they have ever considered running for the legislature. It could be a local town council leader, a local businessperson, an activist or a respected member of your community. If you find someone you feel is a potential animal-friendly candidate please call our office and we will be happy to sit down with that individual to assist him or her in understanding more about campaigning and the legislature. Our new Political Action Program can actively assist that candidate.

Advancing animal protection legislation requires animal-friendly legislators --- as our motto is: "Love animals. Hate politics. Where does that leave the animals?" There are few more important things that you can do to advance our agenda or give Maine's animals a voice than electing legislators who believe like we do.

**Check it out !
MFOA's new and updated
website: www.mfoa.net**

**Stay informed.
Get on MFOA's 'Action Alert / Update'
list --- send us your email address.**

- ♦ Grow MFOA with paid staff / new office manager. Board of Director and District Coordinators will engage in a one-time fundraising effort to create an increased level of annual funding.
- ♦ 'Dogs Chained for Life' campaign. Statewide educational plan to follow-up on successful legislation addressing dogs left outside unattended, with the intent to pursue follow-up legislation.
- ♦ Post bear referendum campaign. Using the significant increase in public awareness and new support from non-consumptive users of wildlife, MFOA will continue to press for a ban on hunting Maine's black bears with the use of bait, hounds and traps.
- ♦ Elephant rules and regulations legislation follow-up strategy to ban circus elephants (and all captive wildlife) in Maine.
- ♦ MFOA Political Action Program to recruit and assist campaigns of state legislative candidates who are animal-friendly, and to defeat the worst anti-animal protection legislators.
- ♦ Assist the state Animal Welfare Program for funding and particularly in acquiring increased funding for the new successful spay - neuter program; monitor changes in the Animal Welfare Advisory Council.
- ♦ Expand MFOA outreach and education program at Falmouth office and with area District Coordinators / regional events.
- ♦ Being the U.S. state closest to the horrific Canadian seal hunt killing, MFOA will actively support the campaign to boycott Canadian seafood with a focus on Maine restaurants.
- ♦ Support the HSUS New England Dog Fighting Task Force; support the Massachusetts referendum to ban greyhound racing.
- ♦ Changing the wildlife management decision process. A continued effort to educate the general public, especially groups involved in the growing number of non-consumptive uses of wildlife (wildlife viewing, hiking, primitive outdoor camping, bird watching, kayaking, outdoor photography, etc.), about the unholy alliance between the members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of IF&W and a no compromise hunting lobby that control Maine wildlife decisions. Goal is to get non-consumptive users a meaningful voice in wildlife management decisions.

MFOA HIRES NEW OFFICE MANAGER

MFOA is pleased to announce the hiring of Karen D'Andrea as its office manager and new member of the Board of Directors. As MFOA grows in its scope and involvement in animal protection it has become difficult to keep up with all that we do without paid staff. That has changed with the hiring of Karen. She has a long history working with non-profits and formed her own non-profits consulting business, Gaia Consulting in Scarborough. She also has supported many animal protection issues, particularly on her radio show 'Sound Ecology' that she has hosted for eight year at WPMG radio in Portland.

Karen's primary responsibilities will be in database management, membership, office management, financials and fundraising. She can be reached at the MFOA Falmouth Office at 781-2187.

MFOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to right: District Coordinator Julie Fernee, Dani Jacobs, Liz Goodie, Deb Trudeau, Sharon Kumiszczka, former board member Don Loprieno, Bob Sullivan, former board member Sue Avery, and Robert Fisk, Jr. Not pictured: Marisa Bentley, Karen D'Andrea and Susanna Richer.

Collins, Snowe, Allen Receive Awards For Their Support of Animal Protection Legislation

U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins and U.S. Rep. Thomas Allen were recognized by the Humane Society of the United States for legislative leadership awards on animal welfare issues considered by the Congress in 2005 and for receiving scores of 100 on the Humane Scorecard.

Mainers in Washington

Four Maine animal activists attended the recent national 'Taking Action for Animals' conference July 16-18 in Washington, DC: Robert Fisk, Jr. and Dani Jacobs of Maine Friends of Animals, Beth Gallie of the Maine Animal Coalition and Caryl McIntyre of Voice for Animals.

MFOA at Party Conventions

Maine Friends of Animals will have a booth at the state Republican and Democratic Conventions at the Augusta Civic Center in May.

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Newsletter

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Tell your cat and dog-loving friends about Maine's

New Tax Check Off!



Because there aren't enough homes for all of them...

Maine's State Tax Form now has a check-off box called

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- * Reducing the Number of Feral cats
- * Reducing Dog Bites



For more information
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Augusta Watch

Elephant ban update

RULES ESTABLISHED FOR THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF ELEPHANTS WHILE IN THE STATE OF MAINE



In 2000 animal advocates came together in Maine to address what they considered one of the more egregious forms of animal cruelty; that of being a circus elephant. The campaign raised public awareness of how a circus elephant is trained, kept, used and disposed of. It is an unusually cruel and miserable existence for such a free roaming, intelligent, social, gentle giant. The campaign culminated with the Maine House of Representatives voting (88-58) in favor of a bill to ban any performing elephants in the state. Unfortunately it lost in the Senate. But the advocates continued their campaign for two more years and re-introduced the same legislation in 2003, L.D. 327 "An Act to Prevent Elephant Abuse", which culminated in a directive for the Animal Welfare Program (AWP) to establish Rules relating to circus elephants while in the state. MFOA submitted what rules and regulations it thought should be included, much of which the Department used. The circus industry has strongly objected to these rules and regulations. These rules will provide MFOA a greater ability and opportunity to find circuses in violation of said rules and require that the AWP investigate any claims of violations while a circus is in the state. MFOA plans to attend every circus in that comes into the state to look for violations. The ultimate goal is to gather enough information to go back to the legislature to get a total ban. The second part is to make life so miserable for them that they decide it just is not worth coming to Maine. Either way we ban them and make a serious statement about this outdated form of entertainment. The following is our strategy for 2006.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. MFOA and the Department of Agriculture will receive notice of all circuses in the state and we will have someone at each circus to monitor them and look for violations, and to contact the Animal Welfare Program when we see a violation.
2. MFOA will assist the AWP to insure unannounced inspections are done.
3. All MFOA "spies" will be trained in what and how to look for pertaining to these rules on such things as indoor and outdoor facilities, space requirements, feeding/watering/sanitation, transportation requirements, record keeping and proper handling and inspection of elephants.
4. MFOA will contact each town that a circus is planning to come to. We will lobby the town council, as well as convention centers and mall parking lot owners etc. While providing them names of animal free circuses we hope by educating them they will ban circuses with captive wildlife in their town .
5. MFOA will demonstrate at least one night at every circus to continue educating the public and the media, while keeping direct pressure on the industry while they are here.
6. Create new promotion flyer and media packet for distribution to town council members and local media.

With your help we will eliminate this outdated form of entertainment that an enlightened society should have banned a long time ago. We want to thank Animal Welfare Program director, Norma Worley for her work in assembling these rules for the care and treatment of elephants. We believe it shows Maine takes animal welfare and animal cruelty seriously and that we expect the same of those who enter our state with animals.

MFOA SPONSORED BILLS

L.D. 204 "An Act to Protect Dogs That Are Left Outside"

Sponsor: Rep. Red Koffman, Bar Harbor

Passed. First state legislation to address dogs being left unattended for extended periods of time. The bill requires the dog shelter must be 4-sided [not 3 sided], portal entry must be unimpeded, shelter must have clean bedding material, collar must be properly fitted and a swivel anchor must be used to prevent an entangled or twisted tether. Penalties will fall under existing animal cruelty statutes.

L.D. 1460 "An Act to Ban Bear Hunting with Traps Except to Protect the Public."

Sponsor: Rep. John Eder, Portland

L.D. 628 "An Act to Amend the Bear Hunting Laws" [bear hounding ban]

Sponsor: Rep. Jane Eberle, South Portland

Both bills along with 6 other bear bills were defeated in Committee in conjunction with a Committee directive to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife "to conduct an in depth review of the methods and tools employed by the department to achieve its bear management goals." An advisory group has been assembled by the Department and Maine Friends of Animals is participating in those on-going meetings. The Department will give its report to the Committee this legislative session. See page 6 for more details.

L.D. 1370 "An Act to Change the Membership of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council."

Sponsor: Rep. John Eder, Portland

Bill was defeated in committee. The IF&W Advisory Council advises the Department of IF&W on wildlife issues. Bill would have changed the council membership to include representatives from non-consumptive wildlife groups.

L.D. 599 "An Act to Protect Household Pets and Other Small Animals from Poisoning"

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Glynn, South Portland

Bill would require antifreeze manufacturers to add an inexpensive bittering agent to anti-freeze to protect pets from the fatal ingestion of sweet tasting antifreeze fluid. Bill was well received in the Natural Resources Committee, but was tabled to get more information and to see how a similar national bill fared. The U.S. Senate Commerce Committee favorably reported out S.1110, as amended. Bill will be voted upon soon and it looks favorable. If national bill does not pass, MFOA will reintroduce the bill in the state legislature.

Campaign to Continue Growing MFOA

MFOA Board members, District Coordinators and other activist members do much to advance animal protection and MFOA, but being an all volunteer organization has its limits. MFOA has grown, especially since the bear referendum, and is at that point that to expand its directives, legislation, activities, influence and scope of work we must create funding to pay full time and part time staff. MFOA has the office space, computers and support services to accommodate the staffing, but we do not have the necessary funding. Therefore it is essential to grow our fundraising abilities to finance staffing that then can maintain that level of annual funding.

This fundraising will be a one time, one year campaign. We need all our members helping with this effort. This will put our funding level at a much higher level, which the paid staff will then maintain, and in the process give us considerably more ability to do more. So won't you help us reach this new level of animal protection as a statewide organization.

One of the ways in which we will reach that goal is that we have asked MFOA's 15 District Coordinators throughout the state to raise \$5,000 in their district. Please consider donating to one of these 15 individuals. You also can help by finding others to donate to this campaign. Below is a list to help you identify potential donors. Please take a moment to think whom you might contact. Encourage them to view our updated website www.mfoa.net, and let us know if MFOA can help in recruiting your potential donor(s). We would be happy to contact them by phone or meet with them.

It is very exciting to think what we can accomplish with paid staff. By supporting this one time campaign you will create a sustainable and predictable level of funding to support paid staff and significantly increase our abilities to help more of Maine's animals.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR 15 FUNDRAISING CHAIRPERSONS

The majority of monies donated to non-profits / charities come from individual donors. Last year Americans donated \$188 billion to charities and causes; 80% of that came from individual donors, not fundraisers and other forms of fundraising. Therefore this is our focus --- targeting donors to create an on-going donor base that paid staff will maintain. Not only do 80% of all donated monies come from individual donors, 20% of those donors make up 80% of the money given. Our focus will be to build a relationship with our members and donors to create an organized environment to cultivate and maintain individual donors. Please call your District Coordinator with the names of potential donors. Thank you for all that you do for animals.

Identifying potential donors

- ◆ Donates to other causes or non-profits
- ◆ Supports other animal causes and / or organizations, shelters etc.
- ◆ Supports political candidates / campaigns financially
- ◆ Membership to country clubs
- ◆ Information from other MFOA members in your area
- ◆ Have they hosted fundraisers (newspapers)
- ◆ Wealth indicators --- home, neighborhood, yacht, business owner



MFOA OFFICES

Making the contact

- ◆ Are they a member of MFOA; do they know a MFOA member or do we have a mutual contact that we could call first?
- ◆ Have they ever attended an animal protection demonstration, press conference, collected signatures?
- ◆ Do you know someone who knows the potential donor to ask them about the best way to approach the donor?
- ◆ What are their set of values? Get to know prospect, form relationship, be patience and create trust
- ◆ What specific animal or other issues does the donor care about?
- ◆ What else does the donor support?
- ◆ People or organizations the donor respects?

LEARN MORE ABOUT ANIMAL PROTECTION

MFOA is an education and resource center. The spacious new office in Falmouth has an extensive array of articles, files, magazines, legislative history, books, videos and resources. MFOA can assist members who might like to learn more about the issues, or to set up a table/booth at a local school, community event, county fair, conference, political event, etc. MFOA's Outreach Coordinator and Office Manager can assist members in outreach education either at our office or in your community. Education leads to advocacy that leads to public awareness and successful legislation.



MFOA OFFICES

Post Bear Referendum

Bear debate changed public's view of hunt

By ROBERT FISK JR.

Deirdre Fleming's Outdoor column "Sportsman's Alliance taps unity" (Telegram 10/30/05) had a substantive omission and lacked a balanced perspective.

The opening sentence read: "The bear referendum last fall did wonders to unite the sportsmen's clubs around the state." What Ms. Fleming neglected to consider is how did the bear referendum affect the proponents of it? The answer is they increased their support substantially and far more so than any growth within sportsmen's clubs.

The general public awareness resulting from the referendum means these bear "hunting" practices will never be viewed the same, and with it came a base of support that has built the ranks of animal-protection advocates like never before.

Equally important, with it has come support from many of those who enjoy Maine's wildlife in a non-consumptive way that do not consider themselves animal-protection people. It also should be pointed out that the number of hunters in Maine has declined for 15 years in a row while the number of people appreciating our wildlife without killing them has grown every year in that same period.

What grows our ranks even more is the give-no-quarter, fall-on-your-sword, no-compromise attitude by the more radical hunting and trapping groups that now control Maine's wildlife management decisions in an unholy alliance with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Doggedness and divisive positions are not ultimately in the best interest of hunters and hunting. Nevertheless, they persist as the opposition continues to grow.

A perfect example is Maine remains the only state in the country that still allows the barbaric and needlessly cruel practice of trapping a bear. The SAM and the Department of IF&W response is that is fine, it shows Maine independence. In my view such "intransigence will ultimately be their undoing. There is

still time to find compromise, but there is no indication that is coming any time soon.

Maine Friends of Animals today has an active nine-member board of directors and 15 statewide district coordinators. Our membership has doubled in the last two years. We have added paid staff, and support comes from non-animal protection folks, including many hunters. We feel more beholden to advance these issues than ever before. Increasingly there is a feeling that this proprietary and inflexible attitude of certain hunting groups and the department make them incapable of ending any hunting practice no matter how cruel, unethical, or unnecessary it may be.

Whatever you make of the closeness in the vote in the bear referendum and its ramifications, one unquestionable result is that bear hunting in this state will never be viewed the same. The public awareness that came from the referendum changed all that.

A current legislative directive to the Department of IF&W to seriously review the bear hunting practices in this state is an opportunity for the department and sportsmen to be viewed as positive agents of change.

If inflexible hunting groups and the department continue to insist on no hunting restriction on any hunting practice, continue to exclude the non-consumptive users from any meaningful opportunity to affect change, and continue a rigid ideology that hardens positions, then I fear we will see a greater division and escalation of tensions between hunters and non-hunters, growing criticism of a department that continues to serve a special interest group and not all its citizens, more contentious legislation, and calls for future referendums. Sides will be polarized like never before.

And our numbers will continue grow.

Robert Fisk Jr. of Falmouth is president and director of Maine Friends of Animals. He can be reached at 781-9056 or

mfoa@maine.rr.com

11/20/05

Bear Bills Update

In the wake of a close vote on the bear referendum eight different bear bills were filed in the last legislative session. The Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife instead of working the bills decided to instruct the Department of IF&W to do a thorough review of all bear hunting practices with all the stakeholders involved. A 'bear working group' (advocates on both sides of the bear referendum) has been assembled to discuss and make suggestions to the Department and have been meeting since October. The Department will make its recommendations to the Committee this legislative session.



MFOA's Robert Fisk, Jr. has aggressively put forth suggestions of significant changes including the outright banning of bear trapping and hounding. Cecil Gray, referendum tri-director for Hunters for Fair Bear Hunting and Bob Bachorik of the Izaak Walton League have strongly supported that position. The position of the Izaak Walton League (neutral in the referendum) is a significant development in providing support for our side as well as offering hunters an alternative to SAM. A fourth member of the advisory group, Bob Savage, of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council has also been surprisingly supportive of changes. Jody Jones of the Maine Audubon Society continues to disappoint being completely uncommitted to any position. House chair of the Committee on IF&W, Rep. Tom Watson of Bath is also a member of the group and has been to all the meetings seeking compromise between the sides. The opposition to any change comes from representatives from the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, North Woods, Maine Bowhunters Association, Maine Tree Hound Association, Maine Trappers Association, Maine Chapter of Wildlife Society and no show Sen. Bruce Byrant. Department of IF&W's Ken Elowe is chairing the group. He is trying to find some consensus, but he comes from a department that has been predisposed to resisting changes in Maine's bear hunting practices.

It remains to be seen what will come from these unique meetings, but is the first time everyone has been face to face in a series of meetings and it provides our side an opportunity to let opponents know we are resolved to continue the fight as written in the Op-Ed on this page. Maine Friends of Animals is working to increase the alliance and support of more non-consumptive wildlife user groups. MFOA will hold a press conference at the capitol the day of the Department report to the Committee or the following day and invites all to attend.

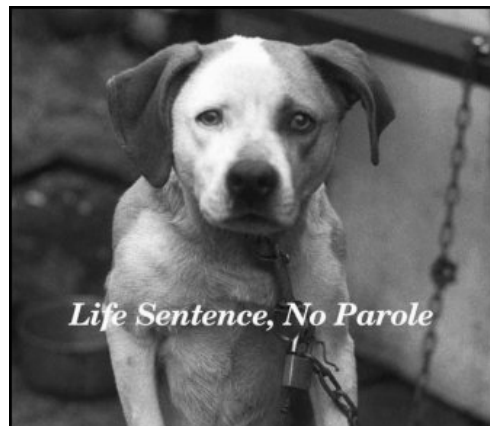
What can you do for the bears?

Write Ken Elowe, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, State House Station #41, Augusta, ME 04333-0041 today and tell him to include a ban on bear trapping and hounding in his report. It is important that you cc your letter to Sen. Bruce S. Bryant and Rep. Thomas R. Watson and mail 20 copies to Jeremy Lestage, Committee Clerk, Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, 100 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0100. Note: political ramifications of not doing something significant and hunting ethics resonates with the Department and these legislators more than the cruelty issue.

MFOA'S 'DOGS CHAINED FOR LIFE' CAMPAIGN

L.D. 204, "An Act to Protect Dogs That Are Left Outside" Public Law, Chapter 340.

This bill establishes tethering and shelter standards specific to dogs that are confined outside on tethers for long periods as its primary means of confinement. Primary means of confinement means the method used to confine a dog for periods of time that exceeds 12 hours in a 24 hour period.



- ♦ If a dog is tied or confined unattended outdoors under weather conditions that adversely affect the health of the dog, a shelter of suitable size with a floor above ground and water proof roof must be provided to accommodate the dog and protect it from the weather and, in particular, from the severe cold. Inadequate shelter may be indicated by the shivering of the dog due to cold weather for a continuous period of 30 minutes.
- ♦ A shelter must be provided that is fully enclosed (four-sided; was three sided) except for a portal.
- ♦ The portal must be sufficient size to allow the dog unimpeded passage into and out of the structure. For dogs other than artic breeds, the portal must be constructed in a manner that keeps wind and precipitation out of the interior.
- ♦ The shelter must have clean bedding material sufficient to retain the dog's normal body heat.
- ♦ The chain or tether must be attached to both the dog and the anchor using swivels or similar devices that prevents the chain or tether from becoming entangled or twisted.
- ♦ The chain or tether must be attached to a well-fitted collar or harness on the dog.
- ♦ The chain or tether must be at least 5 times the length of the dog measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail. 2.5 times for artic breeds (Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Huskies, Malamutes).

10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE 'DOGS CHAINED FOR LIFE' CAMPAIGN

1. MFOA will send a copy of above standards to all Animal Control Officers, but a copy from you to your local Animal Control Officer will be a useful reminder that you expect the new law to be enforced. Keep a copy in your car to refer to.
2. Call or email MFOA for a door hanger and scripted letter that politely educates the owner of a 'Dog Chained for Life'.
3. If the above does not help, notify your ACO of any names and addresses where the above standards are not being met. A picture or video will assist your case. Follow-up with ACO to see what was done.
4. If neither of the above works, contact MFOA and the Animal Welfare Program at 287-3846.
5. MFOA is building a case to go back to the legislature for further standards including time off the tether. We need evidence to show legislators. Please look for 'Dogs Chained for Life' and send MFOA the name and address of the dog; and any action taken. Pictures would be very helpful.
6. Promote wwwfriendlyfence.com Best friend fence is visually appealing, very strong pet fence that safely keeps the dog within a designated area without the use of electric wires or unattractive and costly fencing.
7. Assist the MFOA 'Dogs Chained for Life' education program. Put MFOA educational flyer up at local veterinarians, libraries, pet stores and community bulletin boards. Contact your MFOA District Coordinator about tabling at a local event, community function, political gathering or country fair.
8. Contribute financially to MFOA's 'Dogs Chained for Life' campaign.
9. Write a letter to your local newspaper about the plight of 'Dogs Chained for Life'. Send published copy to MFOA.
10. New Year's Resolution: Free one 'Dog Chained for Life' in 2006. Please let us know of any dog you were responsible for reducing or getting off tether which will be listed in our next newsletter.

IS YOUR DOG A HERO?

Would you like to share with us the contributions your dog has made in your life? Maine Friends of Animals is putting together a calendar for 2007 called "*The Contributions of Maine Dogs*". We are looking for human interest stories and pictures that depict what dogs have done for humans in Maine, whether it was a dog waking someone sleeping in a house fire, a service dog, a working dog or a dog that changed a seniors life, etc. The calendar is a fundraiser for the 'Dogs Chained for Life' Campaign, **Break The Chain in Maine**. We are also seeking stories/pictures of a dog chained for life. Therefore we need 12 pictures of some dog continuously left outside - please send it to us and the town in which you took it.

For more information contact Deb Trudeau, MFOA fundraising director at Debtrudeau@verizon.net or call 799-8347.

MFOA Boycotts

MFOA TO JOIN CANADIAN SEAFOOD BOYCOTT

There are few forms of animal cruelty that exceed the brutality of the annual Canadian seal hunt. We have all seen the horrific pictures of baby seals being clubbed to death and often skinned alive. Despite global opposition and years of protest more than 317,000 harp seals were killed for their fur in 2005, bringing the three year total to over a million seals. The Canadian government has used many lines of "reasoning" --- all unreasonable and flawed --- to attempt to justify the slaughter. A number of national animal protection organizations have joined together to push for a boycott of Canadian seafood.

Maine is the closest U.S. state to this killing, therefore MFOA feels we should be as active as we can by joining the boycott. We are going to contact Maine restaurants to encourage them to join this boycott. The list of targeted companies are available online at BoycottCanadianSeafood.net. This would politically also help Maine seafood sellers. Once we have collected as many restaurants as we can to join the boycott, MFOA will place ads in the six Maine daily newspapers listing the restaurants that have joined the boycott. MFOA will also use the ad to educate the Maine public of this terribly inhumane slaughter that Maine citizens should encourage the Canadian government to end.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please send us a list of restaurants in your community that serve seafood and their addresses. MFOA will send them a packet of information and a request to join the boycott. Even better if you would like to approach the restaurant owner yourself; we will send the packets directly to you. In one of our newsletters we will publish a list of the boycotting restaurants, and the MFOA members who were responsible for bringing us restaurants that have joined the boycott. Please send us your list today.

If you had plans to visit Canada this year for vacation, consider an alternative vacation destination and write the Canadian government of your decision. Once again targeting a financial loss by continuing this practice.

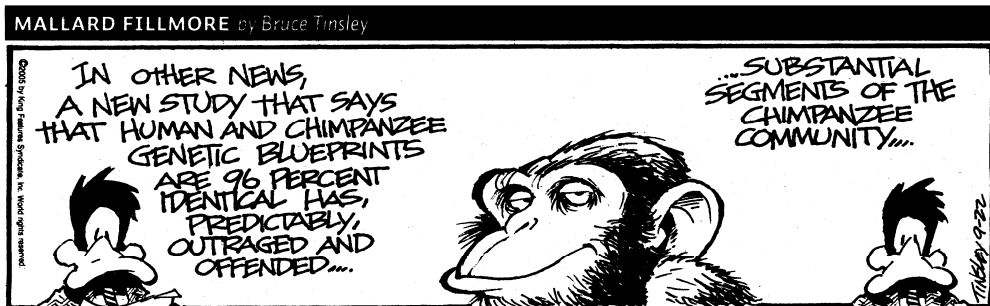
L.L. Bean Boycott

L.L. Bean has twice in recent months shown to be no friend of animals. It donated \$120,000 to a new office center for the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM), the wildlife lobbying group that advocates no change in any hunting practice no matter how cruel, unethical or unnecessary it is.

MFOA sponsored legislation to end trapping, coyote snaring, bear hunting with the use of bait, hounds and traps and canned hunting have all been aggressively fought by SAM. By making a large financial donation to this intransigent extreme hunting group, L.L. Bean has supported hunting positions that the vast majority of Maine Citizens believe to be wrong.

L.L. Bean continues to sell rabbit fur, even though millions of animals suffer tormented lives in fur farms or are painfully trapped in steel-jaw traps. Rabbits are sensitive, intelligent animals that live in inhumane conditions in fur farms and are cruelly slaughtered for their fur.

Please write L.L. Bean today to let them know that you are very bothered by their financial support of SAM and you will not be shopping at L.L. Bean if it continues to sell rabbit fur or any animal fur. Write Chris McCormick, L.L. Bean, Inc., 15 Casco Street, Freeport, ME 04033. MFOA is considering some form of action to make the public aware of L.L. Bean's complicity in wildlife cruelty and support of unethical hunting practices.



MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS
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