



news

MAINE FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

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Augusta Watch

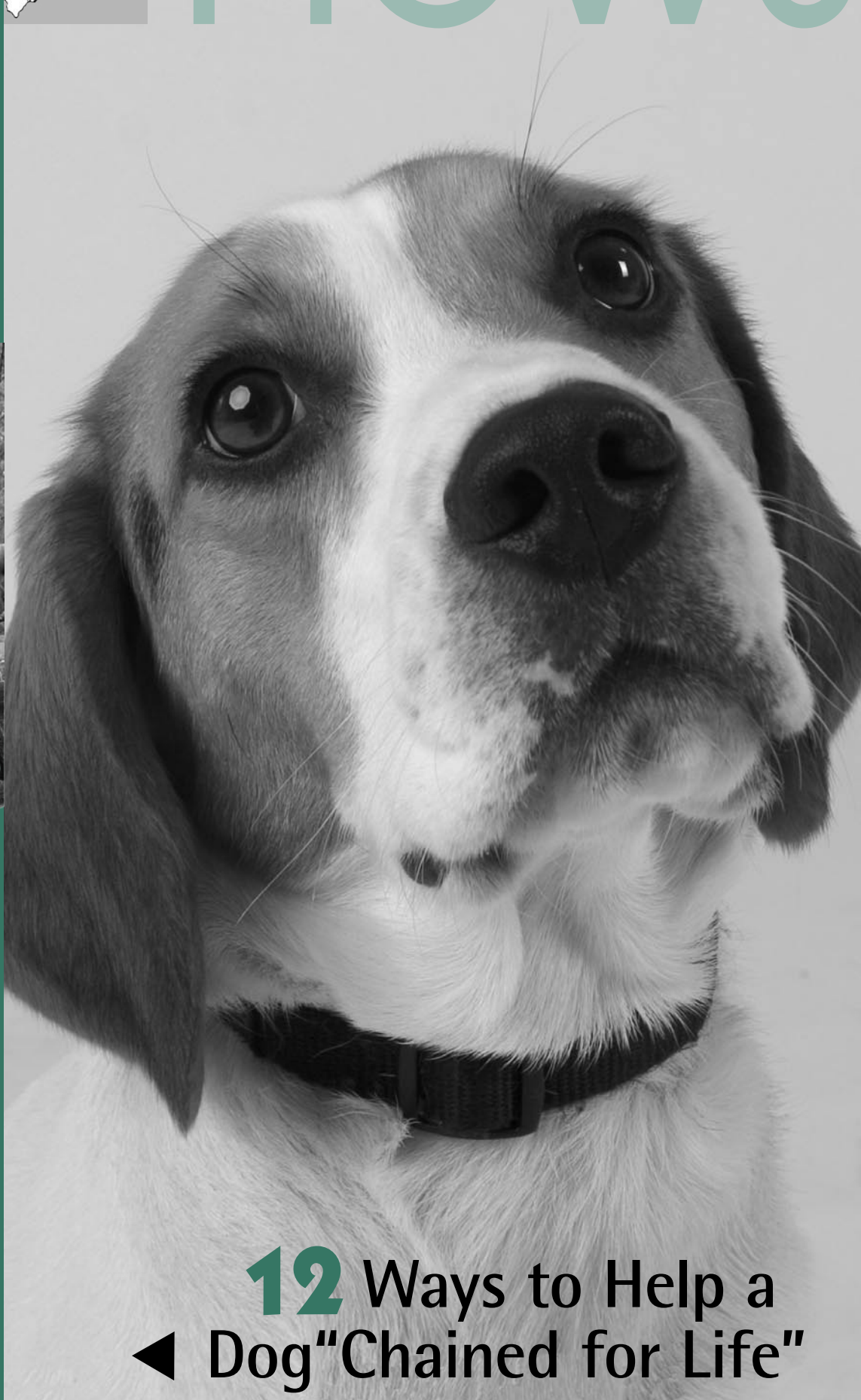
Interview with AWP Director
Norma Worley

Opinion: Making the Human Connect

Donor recognition

Canadian seal hunt

A wildlife friendly backyard



1 Alert people of MFOA's
"Dogs Chained for Life"
campaign / www.mfoa.net

2 Know existing laws
pertaining to dogs
left outside

3 Send a MFOA educational
letter to the owner of a
chained dog

continued on next page...

12 Ways to Help a
◀ Dog "Chained for Life"

by Robert Fisk, Jr. President & Director

There was a front page story last year in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about a female humpback whale that had become entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines. She was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat. She also had hundreds of yards of line wrapped around her body, tail, torso and a line tugging in her mouth.

A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farralones Islands (outside the Golden Gate Bridge) and radioed an environmental group for help. Within a few hours the rescue team arrived and determined that she was in such severe condition the only way to save her was for them to dive in and untangle her, which was a very dangerous proposition. One slap of the tail could kill a rescuer.

They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, nudged and pushed them gently around -- she thanked them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives. The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the whole time and he will never be the same.

Too few in society today know or appreciate the degree of "human" qualities many of our fellow species share with us. The whale showed an ability to express joy and gratitude, making a human connect to those reading the story. Most do not realize that elephants, dogs, chimpanzees, dolphins and many other animals of a higher level feel a full range of "human" emotions such as excitement, jealousy, hope, rage, anxiousness, love, fear, grief, loyalty, shame, cockiness, compassion, and peace. And one thing they surely are our equal in is in the ability to feel pain.

In a very informative and compelling article on the human effects on

elephants worldwide recently published in *The New York Times Magazine*, some researchers point to a species-wide trauma in the fabric of pachyderm society. The article is entitled, "Are We Driving Elephants Crazy? Their behavior in the wild has grown strange and violent in recent years. Researchers say our encroachment on their way of life is to blame. It provides insight into the wide range of emotions these animals experienced throughout their social structure in their loss of habitat, extreme and brutal poaching, culling and general human activity.

In MFOA's four-year effort to end coyote snaring, it was noted that if humans did to a dog what this state allows to happen to a coyote, it would easily be considered aggravated animal cruelty. But when it was observed that their pet dogs were 98% genetically the same animal as a coyote, it made little impression on the committee members hearing the bill.

The psychological abuse and trauma animals experience that is very similar to that of humans should be emphasized at every opportunity. The more we can put a human face on their plight, the sooner the public empathy will grow in changing how animals are viewed within society. It is one thing to point out that chimpanzees are 98.6% genetically identical to humans, but it is another thing to get people to equate "human" emotions to other species.

As we find new ways to advance animal protection, it would seem making the human qualities connection and expanding the understanding of the terms "sentient beings" and "speciesism" is a tactic and strategy we should increasingly advance. An elephant sheds tears in grief as humans do. And a whale can display gratitude in ways we may not have thought humanly possible. As we gain greater knowledge of other species, I hope we escalate our efforts to increase the public awareness of the likeness with human emotions and sensitivities. Until then, I think of a bumper sticker I once saw: "Humans are not the only species on the planet, they just act like they are."

DOGS "CHAINED FOR LIFE" (DCFL) How You Can Help the MFOA Campaign

continued from cover

4 Promote alternatives to tethering.

5 Write your State Representative and Senator requesting their support for MFOA's "Dogs Chained for Life" legislation (L.R. 1896).

6 Find name and address of a chained dog owner and contact MFOA; document neglect.

7 Donate to the DCFL campaign.

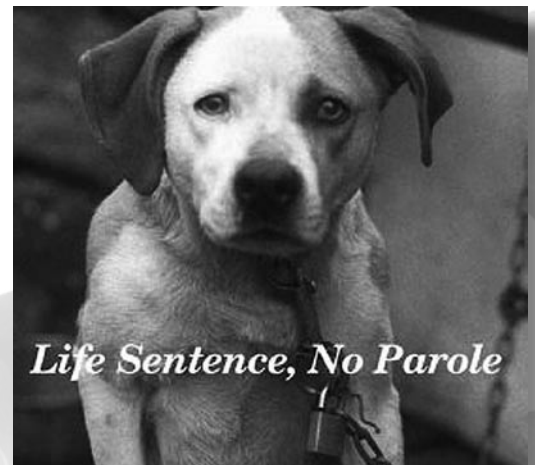
8 Put a MFOA DCFL door hanger at home of owner of a DCFL.

9 Call your local animal control officer to report a chained dog.

10 Write a letter-to-the-editor in your local newspaper about the plight of a chained dog.

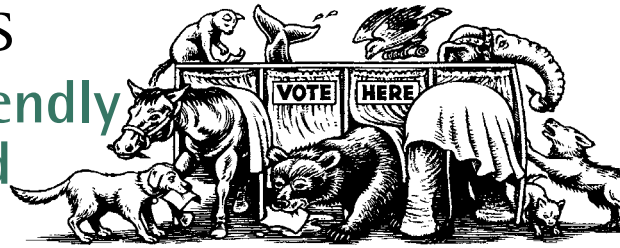
11 If education and persuasion do not work, offer to take the dog or buy it.

12 If all else fails, call the State Animal Welfare Program in Augusta.



ELECTION RESULTS

Maine Animal-friendly Legislators Elected Like Never Before



In each of the last five legislative elections MFOA has sent a questionnaire to all the candidates running for the state legislature. The return of those questionnaires is important in selecting MFOA endorsed candidates and to gauge the interest in animal protection and the MFOA legislative agenda. In previous elections the connection with animal-friendly legislators has been sufficient to find good bill sponsors and to get our message out to other legislators. Occasionally we find an exceptional legislator like Chris Muse of South Portland, who in 2003 aggressively and passionately championed the circus elephant ban legislation and campaign. But the number and strength of the responses from this year's legislative questionnaires far surpassed any other election in 10 years of tracking and supporting animal-friendly legislators.

The number of responses returned doubled any previous election, the number of favorable responses was up 35%, 65% of MFOA endorsed candidates won, and 42 legislators got a 95-100% rating. To coincide with this favorable election outcome Maine's inflexible hunting lobby publicly lamented the apparent disappointment in the candidates' responses to their legislative questionnaire.

The political pendulum is swinging our way, albeit too slowly. But there is no question animal protection advocates in Maine are increasingly being accepted and listened to in today's political discourse. Political engagement by Maine animal activists is making a difference, which means MFOA's ability to champion animal protection issues in the future has increased.

Nancy Sullivan	S 4	Biddeford	npsullivan@gwi.net
Carl Turner	S 11	Cumberland	kwturner@yahoo.com
Peter Bowman	S 1	Kittery	senpeter.bowman@legislature.maine.gov
Margaret Rotundo	S 16	Lewiston	mrotundo@bates.edu
Ethan Strimling	S 8	Portland	senethan.strimling@mainesenate.org
Deborah Simpson	H 69	Auburn	deborah.simpson4@verizon.net
Patsy Crockett	H 57	Augusta	pgcrockett@yahoo.com
Jacqueline Norton	H 15	Bangor	jrnorton@prexar.com
Theodore Koffman	H 35	Bar Harbor	koffman@coa.edu
Jayne Giles	H 43	Belfast	jaynegiles@email.com
James Schatz	H 37	Blue Hill	bluehillfarm@gwi.net
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Wendy Pieh	H 50	Bremen	repwendy.pieh@legislature.maine.gov
Stanley Gerzofsky	H 66	Brunswick	stan134@aol.com
James Annis	H 26	Dover-Foxcroft	jmannis@midmaine.com
David Savage	H 112	Falmouth	savagedata1@earthlink.net
Sharon Treat	H 79	Farmingdale	satreat@earthlink.net
Janet Mills	H 89	Farmington	jmills@mainelegal.net
Raymond Pineau	H 87	Jay	rapineau@adelphia.net
Christopher Babbidge	H141	Kennebunk	babbidge@adelphia.net
Margaret Craven	H 74	Lewiston	mcraven@midmaine.com
Elaine Makas	H 71	Lewiston	elaine@makas.com
Richard Wagner	H 73	Lewiston	rvwlcw@yahoo.com
Gary Knight	H 81	Livermore Falls	lgary.knight@usa.net
Hanna Pingree	H 36	North Haven	hanna@pingree.com
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INTERVIEW

with AWP Director Norma Worley

What is your background before becoming Maine AWP Director? Prior to relocating to Maine for “retirement” I was employed by the Ventura County Department of Animal Regulation, located in Camarillo, CA for 21 years. I started my career as a field animal control officer and over the years rose to the position of Operations Manager. My responsibilities in that position were to oversee the kennel operation (we received over 15,000 animals a year) the field staff of 14 animal control officers and the administrative staff.

When you took over as the AWP Director the status of the state humane agents was not good. They were without direction, untrained and some positions were unfilled. What is the state of the humane agents in the AWP now and what have you done to augment the needed changes?



“There’s nothing like receiving a photo of a healthy and happy animal to lift your spirits (after its rescue)”

Norma Worley

We are fortunate that we now have some of the most trained humane agents in the nation. When I assumed this position I made some immediate changes including the hiring of a veterinarian, a full time agent for Aroostook and Washington/Hancock Counties; access to the best training for new agents and the support of the Commissioner’s office. Our court convictions and the amount of animals removed (1006) from abusive situations since 2003 supports our success.

In 2001 with significant changes in the operation of the Animal Welfare Program being legislated, one component of that change was the establishment of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council. What is your view of the AWAC?

AWAC has been a tremendous resource for me combined with their historical knowledge of the past, including the “Red Report”. Without the help of the AWAC members I doubt the program would have moved forward as quickly as it has.

What has been the most disappointing legislation you have been involved in; and what has been your legislative highlight?

The most disappointing legislation was in 2003 when I had just started in this position. The Department bill was asking for a literacy testing and mandatory advanced training for animal control officers. Coming from an animal control department (CA) that was so progressive I was shocked when I was told that ACO’s didn’t need to know how to read and advanced training was unnecessary. The legislative highlight was this past session’s inclusion of animals in the Protection from Abuse orders used in domestic violence. Maine was the first in the nation to pass this type of legislation and many states have followed suit.

How do you view animal protection organizations like MFOA in your role as AWP Director?

I see them as most valuable! Many times citizens do not want to report cruelty or neglect to the “State” but will report it to an animal protection organization that in turn will work with us. Also these organizations have the ability and time to educate many more citizens than we can.

Sufficient funding has always hung over the AWP. What is your view at this point of the funding for the program?

Funding is always an issue and it is becoming more critical. Most residents of Maine do not know that 85% of AWP funding comes from our portion of the dog licensing fee resulting in the majority of our funding coming from the “honest” dog owner. Last year we spent over \$100,000 on the care and treatment of seized animals with less than 20% coming back into our budget through court ordered restitution. I hope that we never reach a point that we are unable to remove abused animals because of lack of funding.

What things have you yet to accomplish that is on your agenda?

1. I want all humane agents to attend all 5 levels of the national cruelty training for both small and large agents.
2. I hope to resolve the sheltering issue for both large and small animals. We have reached maximum capacity at our horse rescues and most humane societies don’t always have space for our seized animals.
3. Continue to improve and strengthen, through legislation, Maine’s Animal Welfare Laws and Regulations.

What is the most demanding or challenging part of your job?

I think that would be just the day-to-day operations. I receive 25-35 emails a day,

mostly from concerned citizens in addition to some 15+ phone calls which I try to return on the same day. I must stay on top of operations, proposed legislation, the “Help Fix ME” program, dog licensing, ACO assistance and training. Plus just keeping up with my staff is a challenge but thanks heavens I can depend on them!

Do you have a favorite specific personal story in your responsibilities as AWP? Actually I have many. The stories I appreciate the most are the ones sent in by the new owners of our rescued animals. Many stay in touch by sending us pictures and stories of just day-to-day activities for their newly adopted animals. Unfortunately we have removed so many animals we tend to get caught up in “paperwork” of the case and the courts. This leads to the tendency to not recall or to lose sight of the individual animals but fortunately we have wonderful rescuers who help us remember why we really do what we do. There’s nothing like receiving a picture of a healthy and happy animal to lift your spirits and to make us more determined to help those who cannot help themselves.



MFOA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Giving Maine animals a voice

(L to R) Christina Connors, Robert Fisk, Jr., and Karen D’Andrea.

123RD LEGISLATURE MFOA SPONSORED LEGISLATION



Membership on the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

For ten years MFOA has called for more balance on the membership make-up of the legislative committee that oversees wildlife issues. The issue has been that non-hunters should be considered for the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, especially considering that non-consumptive users of wildlife in Maine outnumber sportsmen two to one, yet they have essentially no meaningful way to get legislation passed if Maine’s inflexible hunting lobby opposes it. MFOA lobbied the new leadership and some 50 animal-friendly legislators, and we are very pleased to report that for the first time it appears the hunting monopoly on the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been broken. The committee is still very unbalanced, but the change is welcome.

L.R. 2093 Joint Resolution Calling on the Government of Canada to End its Sanctioning of the Annual Seal Pup Hunt.
Sponsor: Rep. David D. Savage (Falmouth)

See page 7 of this newsletter for information on how you can support this joint resolution before the 123rd Legislature.

L.R. 1896 “An Act to Protect Dogs Tied Outside”Sponsor: Rep. Peggy Pendleton (Scarborough)

In 2005, MFOA successfully campaigned to pass legislation improving humane standards for dogs left outside on a continuous basis, first in the nation’s state legislation to do so. The updated law requires greater consideration for ‘outside’ dogs concerning their shelter, collar, bedding, and tether attachment and length. Through its current “Dogs Chained for Life” campaign, MFOA continues to increase public awareness about the dangers of tethering dogs (see public service announcement video on homepage of www.MFOA.net). The intent of the campaign is to educate and to present alternatives to tethering, and to enlist support for follow-up legislation in 2007 requiring further standards for dogs left outside, including time off the tether each day.

L.R. 2170 “An Act Concerning Recreational and Commercial Trapping”
Sponsor: Rep. David D. Savage (Falmouth)

This bill prohibits the trapping of fur-bearing animals, except for mice and rats and except when authorized by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Padded leg-hold traps may be used on occasions of public safety and research. The bill also makes a variety of technical changes to the inland fisheries and wildlife laws to reflect the prohibition on trapping.

L.R. 1974 “An Act to Protect Household Pets and Other Animals from Poisoning”
Sponsor: Rep. Emily Ann Cain (Orono)

To reduce the risk of poisoning of household pets and other small animals, this bill requires that engine coolant or antifreeze, that is sweet tasting, must include an aversive agent that makes it taste bitter so that it is rendered unpalatable. It requires the manufacturers of anti-freeze to add the bittering agent, which can be done for about four cents per gallon. MFOA submitted this bill to the last legislature and it was well received in the Committee on Natural Resources, but was tabled given that there was national legislation pending. That national legislation has been stalled so MFOA will look to become the fourth state to pass such legislation.

L.R. 1851 “An Act to Prevent Abuse of Pet Ownership”
Sponsor: Rep. Elaine Makas (Lewiston)

This legislation would repeal a section of Maine’s animal welfare laws that allows an owner to shoot his or her own dog or cat. The existing law was added in the mid-1990’s with the knowledge that some pet owners shoot their animals as an alternative to euthanasia via injection. The Law requires that when using this practice, the animal must die instantaneously and not suffer. However, MFOA believes that there is no way to assure instant death using this method. Additionally, the law sends a misguided message that dogs and cats can be treated as disposable property.

OTHER LEGISLATION

MFOA will review all legislative bills that affect animals and speak for and against some of those bills. Contact the Falmouth office for a list of animal bills being monitored by MFOA.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We want to thank those who have donated financially to Maine Friends of Animals. Our memberships and donations continue to grow, which means our ability to advance animal protection grows as well. We realize there are many good causes your donation could be going to, thus it means a great deal to us that animal protection means that much to you. Your generosity over the years has made MFOA a voice for animals in Maine, and we now are stronger than ever in advancing animal protection into mainstream thinking. We simply could not have done what we have done without your memberships and generous donations. We could not list all our donors in the space allowed, but all donations large and small are most appreciated, and are used entirely to make the life of Maine's animals a better one.

\$1,000 and over

Betsy Holtzmann
Elizabeth Fay
Eugenie Sotiropoulos-Foss
Merl Clarke

\$500 and over

Bradley & Anita Coupe
Lega Medcalf
Betty Sawyer
Nancy Bogenberger & Peter Lamandia
Sue & David Avery
Betsy Newcomer
Monique & Albert Aniel
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C. Susan Mason
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Marian "Bobs" McAleenan
Julie Fernee
Frema Kutler Rauh
Lisa Covey
Maggie Davis
Carol Buxton
Amelia LaRoche
Marilyn Van Saun
Stephen Jacobsen
Melanie Alley
Matthew & Kelli McNichols
William Wiseman

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Roger Carpenter & Alice Rohman
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Jeannine Lockwood Dickey
Edward & Kathryn Mekelburg
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Katherine Everett
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Rhonda Farnham
Susanna Chatametikool
Deborah and Rory Trudeau
Rosemary Pearson
Maureen Sanford
Cathy O'Connor
Carole Jean
Philip Gagnon
Gail Peabody
Everett F. Cox
Sally Yarnish
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George & Mariette Lambert

Maine Friends of Animals is a 501.c4, which allows us to be more legislatively and politically engaged than a regular non-profit, but as a 501.c4 your donations are not tax deductible. That makes your contributions even more appreciated.

Help MFOA Support the Ending of the Cruel Slaughter of Canadian Seal Pups

"The hunt must become an economic liability"

Maine Friends of Animals is asking its members and animal protection activists in Maine to please support its effort in ending one of the most egregious forms of animal cruelty, which is now being perpetrated by the Canadian government's sanctioning of the annual slaughter of over 300,000 harp or hooked seal pups. Maine being the closest American state to this extremely inhumane hunt must support a complete ban on this brutal practice for fur. MFOA's strategy is political and financial in nature and needs your support. Three ways you can help MFOA in this effort:

ACTION #1.

Support MFOA's Joint Resolution before the Maine legislature by contacting your State Representative and Senator to support LR 2093. Find contact information on your legislators by going to <http://janus.state.me.us/house/townlist.htm>. Follow up with a letter to the editor in your local newspaper.

JOINT RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO END ITS SANCTIONING OF THE ANNUAL SEAL PUP HUNT

- WHEREAS, Maine being the state closest to New Brunswick and the Canadian Maritime Provinces, sharing a common border and the Atlantic Ocean; and
- WHEREAS, the Canadian commercial seal hunt is the largest mass slaughter of marine mammals in the world; and
- WHEREAS, the annual shooting, clubbing and often live skinning of 300,000 seal pups in front of their mothers has outraged much of the international community, including the European Union banning all trade in harp and hooked seal products, and the international effort to boycott Canadian seafood products; and
- WHEREAS, the slaughter is done mainly for unessential needs and vanity as a luxury fur item, and therefore is unnecessary; and
- WHEREAS, Maine citizens believe in the humane treatment of animals; and
- WHEREAS, the Canadian government once banned this practice, but then removed the ban, which has resulted in the brutal death of over 1,000,000 seal pups; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the members of the One Hundred and Twenty-third Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, be resolved that the State of Maine calls on the government of Canada to end its sanctioning of the annual baby seal hunt.

— Sponsored by Maine Friends of Animals



ACTION #2.

Support the international call to boycott the sale of Canadian seafood products. MFOA is working with Sea Shepherd Conservation Society in opposing the seal hunt. Go to www.seashepherd.org to support the boycott. In addition, MFOA is recognizing Maine restaurants that have agreed to support the ban on Canadian seafood products. Contact your local restaurants and ask if they will support the boycott, then contact MFOA so the restaurant can be recognized with a plaque and in a MFOA press release.

ACTION #3

Support a tourism boycott of Canadian Maritime Provinces where the slaughter takes place (Nova Scotia, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and especially New Brunswick) by letting the Canadian government officials know you will not visit Canada, and will find alternative travel plans until the slaughter is banned. Send your letter that you are boycotting Canadian travel to the Prime Minister of the Canadian Government and copies to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Maritime Province's tourism bureaus.

PLEASE WRITE

The Right Honorable Steven Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Canada
613-992-6900

The Honorable Loyola Hearn
Minister of Fisheries & Oceans
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington Street Canada
Ottawa, K1A 0A6
Canada

New Brunswick Department
of Tourism
P.O. Box 12345
Campbellton, NB E3N 3T6
Canada

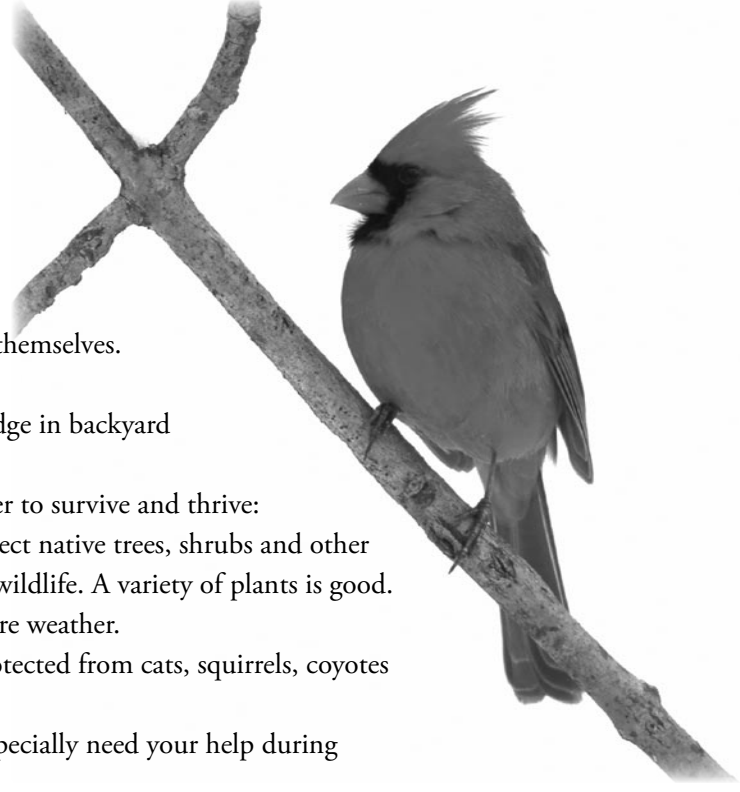
Newfoundland &
Labrador Tourism
P.O. Box 8700
St. John NL A1B 4J6
Canada

Nova Scotia Department
of Tourism
P.O. Box 456
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2R5
Canada

Quebec Department
of Tourism
P.O. Box 979
Montreal, Quebec H3C 2W3
Canada

Please Write, but if you only have time to email, send it to the Canadian Prime Minister's office at pm@pm.gc.ca, and the Canadian Minister of Fisheries and Oceans at min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

MFOA's 10 Steps to Creating a Wildlife Friendly Backyard

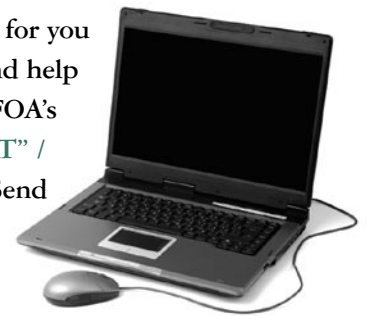


1. Develop a plan. Check the library, bookstore and internet. Establish your habitat goals. Manage the habitat not the species themselves.
2. Find out what species are present in your community.
3. Contact landscapers or other resources with interest and knowledge in backyard wildlife habitats.
4. All animals require four basic elements from their habitat in order to survive and thrive: food, water, shelter and a place to raise their young. Carefully select native trees, shrubs and other vegetation that provide the best habitat characteristics to attract wildlife. A variety of plants is good.
5. Create staging areas, shelter from predators and escape from severe weather.
6. Build bird houses, feeding areas and nesting facilities that are protected from cats, squirrels, coyotes and the elements.
7. Food and water should be consistent as well as clean. Wildlife especially need your help during the cold winter months
8. Habitat management. Learn animal habitats, diets and behavior. Keep human belongings and trash secure.
9. Pet cats and dogs should be kept inside, taken outside with supervision / tether and/or allowed to run in a confined area.
10. Respect wildlife, do not feed certain species, keep your distance and let them remain wild.



STAYING INFORMED

We make it easy for you to take action and help animals. Get MFOA's "ACTION ALERT" / UPDATES list. Send us your email address.



Office Volunteers

Do you have a few hours a month you would like to help out at the MFOA office in Falmouth? Call 781-2187.

www.mfoa.net

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