



GREEN MOUNTAIN ANIMAL DEFENDERS

To all Green Mountain Animal Defenders,

As the close of 2010 approaches and a new year beckons, the Board of Green Mountain Animal Defenders would like to take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of the animals, for your dedication and support that made possible the best year yet for animals in Vermont.

Here is just a sample of what your donations and volunteer work achieved in 2010:

We subsidized low-cost spay and neuter for 411 cats and 28 dogs, in large part through the efforts of long-time volunteer, Lindsey Deon's, "Mile of Money" campaign. With the invaluable help of Pat Cram, Lindsey spearheaded this fundraiser to address companion animal overpopulation in Vermont.

GMAD recently solicited and matched donations for animals seized in 2 separate investigations. Central Vermont Humane Society received permanent custody of 16 of 17 animals seized from an East Montpelier home. GMAD had previously identified this home in a database we established identifying possible small-scale puppy mills in Vermont. That information was passed along to the investigators during their initial investigation. GMAD has raised over \$4000 in total to aid both these animals as well as the severely neglected cats that were seized from an abandoned home in South Ryegate.

In the wake of the Bushway slaughterhouse scandal, we organized a state-wide campaign that helped lead to guilty pleas to cruelty-to-animals charges by one worker and one co-owner, neither of whom will be allowed to work with animals again. Moreover, the campaign successfully aided in the launch of legislation that increases the penalties for violations of Vermont's Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and allows the Secretary of Agriculture to require video monitoring in slaughterhouses.

We continue to monitor and submit written comments to the Vermont Livestock Care Advisory Council, a newly created committee that advises the Agency of Agriculture and the Legislature on all matters that impact the treatment of farmed animals from birth to slaughter.

We organized several demonstrations, a letter-writing campaign and media coverage in opposition to the Champlain Valley Fair's engagement of the Neger Lion and Tiger Act. This act is a traveling show that uses animals belonging to a notorious animal exhibitor who has incurred numerous violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act.



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We worked with Representative Kate Webb of Shelburne to introduce legislation to close a loophole in the Vermont statute that prohibits the use of animals as prizes, a loophole that had been exploited at agricultural fairs across the state, resulting in the suffering of thousands of goldfish in recent years. A deal was brokered with all interested parties in which the fairs were monitored for voluntary compliance of the law. With the exception of one concessionaire in Bradford, who was quickly made to substitute the live goldfish he was using with toy fish, we are pleased that no fish or other animals were awarded as prizes at any other fairs during this year's fair season.

We conducted many public outreach informational tables on Church Street in Burlington, as well as around Chittenden County, and educated hundreds of people on animal welfare issues such as the importance of spay/neuter, factory farming, animals used in experiments and for entertainment as well as homeless animals.

We worked with local officials in locations across the state to successfully promote the use of humane solutions to conflicts with beavers, replacing the previous use of body gripping steel traps to drown them.

We organized and facilitated many wildlife rescues across the state involving chipmunks, squirrels, ducklings, rabbits, mice and a variety of birds. In addition, we aided in locating several lost/escaped dogs and cats.

We named Brenna Galdenzi, a long-time animal activist, as our new Volunteer/Intern Coordinator. You can reach Brenna by calling her at (802) 760-6854 if you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities for the upcoming year. She'd be happy to hear from you!

As many successes as there were in 2010, there is still so much work to be done. Every day there are animals in need, and we hope that you will continue to support Green Mountain Animal Defenders as we work toward a cruelty-free existence for animals in Vermont and beyond. Please visit www.greenmountainanimaldefenders.org to make a donation or to sign up for your 2011 membership.

Wishing you the best of this holiday season and a compassionate 2011.

*Sharon MacNair, President
Green Mountain Animal Defenders*

