

Autumn 2010

Youth Rage

Animal Aid Youth Group Newsletter



Hello!!

We hope that you are enjoying the summer and have been up to all sorts of exciting activities to take full advantage of the break from school or college. We announce the winners of our art and poetry competition in this issue of Youth Rage – take a look inside! With the return to school looming, don't forget that we can provide you with info for your projects – see below.

Cheers! Mark, Elaine & Carole



Back to School!!



September will soon be here, and you'll be back in the classroom! However, you can continue your work for animals while studying, and help friends and classmates understand why it's important to care about animals. Here are some ideas:

- Use your schoolwork to teach others about stopping cruelty to animals. Try investigating an animal-related issue when you have to write an essay or do a project. **Check out www.animalaid.org.uk/youth for ideas.**
- Ask your teacher to invite an Animal Aid speaker to talk to your class. **Details are on the Animal Aid website – see the Education section.**
- Start planning your activities now for Vegan Month in November or for Veggie Month in March. Try suggesting a

veggie week in your cafeteria so that everyone can see how great veggie food is! Or join in with the Meat-Free Monday campaign and make Mondays, or another day, go all veggie. **We can help with catering ideas.**

- Why not set up an animal society at school? You won't be the only one who wants to get active for animals – put the word out and you'll be up and running in no time. **Contact us for help and more information.**

Send us a report and photos of anything that you do to help animals and you could see yourself in Youth Rage and on our website!

Would you like to get news and updates more often?

Did you know that the Animal Aid youth group has its own e-news?

We send out monthly newsletters via email, with all the latest news and ways that you can help. You can sign up at www.animalaid.org.uk/youth or drop us an email at youth@animalaid.co.uk and we'll add you to the list.



Winner 11-13 yrs
Danielle Liddell



Winners of the art and poetry competition

In the Spring issue of Youth Rage, we opened our art and poetry competition, based on the theme of factory farming. We received hundreds of entries from individuals and schools across the country.

It was very difficult to choose the winners, as there was such a high standard! The winners received their awards and prizes on 26 July at a wonderful ceremony in London, hosted by Animal Aid staff and TV presenter Wendy Turner Webster.



Winner 14-16 yrs
Jasmine Rayner



Winner 17-18 yrs Mark Connolly

WENDY WITH MORGAN (LEFT) AND CHARLOTTE, (RIGHT), WINNERS OF THE POETRY COMPETITION

The poetry competition winners were:

11-13: 1st Charlotte Darroch, 2nd Jennifer MacNeill, 3rd Jenny Wilson

14-16: 1st Morgan Cormack, 2nd Suad Abdi, 3rd Ffion Haf



Winner 11-13 yrs
Charlotte Darroch

No more piglets

I whisper to my piglets
I tell them to hush.
For if they start oinking
The MEN will start to rush.

I hear the big doors open
I tell my piglets to 'hide'.
But when they start
their oinking
They are snatched right
from my side.

I watch as they are taken
I look into their eyes

But then my heart breaks
in two
As I listen to their cries.

How many have been taken?
How many have been
killed?

How many piglets have
I lost?
How many hungry people
have been thrilled?

Now there is no oinking
No newborn piglets' breath
No need for me to
hush myself
Now there is only death.

Winner 14-16 yrs
Morgan Cormack

They're just chickens

I'm the factory farmer,
That everyone blames.
For the chicken that they eat,
Even though it's all the same.

So what if they can run free?
Or are cooped up in a cage?
They all taste the same to me,
Same job, same wage.

I keep mine in a warehouse,
Some let them roam free,
They're just chickens for
Pete's sake,
But people say: 'No cruelty'.

(Space constraint prevent us from printing the whole poem, so please visit the www.animalaid.org.uk/go/youthwinners to read the complete version)

Can you resist the temptation?
When they're on offer or buy one
get one free?

Then you turn around and point
the finger,
And blame people like me.

You eat them from KFC,
And in your special fried rice,
You probably eat one every week,
But I'm the one that pays the price...



The art competition winners were:

11-13: 1st Danielle Liddell, 2nd Weronika Maksym, 3rd Elise Owen

14-16: 1st Jasmine Rayner, 2nd Rhiannon Haestier, 3rd Josie Moriarty

17-18: 1st Mark Connolly, 2nd Alison Robb, 3rd Nicholas Macrea

You can view all the winning artwork and read the winning poems on our website: www.animalaid.org.uk/go/youthwinners. Thank you to everyone who entered!

GREAT MYTHS



Myth: Leather is a by-product of the meat industry



NON-LEATHER PRODUCTS



Fact: Some vegetarians continue to wear leather shoes because they believe that leather is only a by-product of the meat trade. They believe that the animals were going to be killed anyway for meat, so there is no additional harm in using the leather for shoes, wallets and handbags.

Leather is made from the skins of cattle, calves, sheep, lambs, goats and pigs. Soft calfskin leather usually comes from the hides of calves raised for veal. Slaughterhouses and the meat industry will try to make a profit from as many different parts of the animal as possible. The skin is the most valuable part of the animal, after the meat, and buying it makes it more profitable to raise and kill the animals, thereby supporting the meat industry. It would be more accurate to call leather a co-product with the meat. In addition, leather is tanned using highly polluting chemicals to ensure that it doesn't degrade over time. The UK exports a lot of raw hides and they are tanned, along with local skins, in India, China and other countries where environmental protection standards are lower than in the UK, so people are being harmed. In India, many cows are slaughtered just for skins. Tanneries pollute rivers with hair, salt, lime, acids and chrome. A study in the US found higher rates of cancers in people living near tanneries.

There are lots of alternatives to leather – including leather-look PVC materials, cotton, hemp, and other fabrics. **Have a look at websites such as Vegetarian Shoes and Bourgeois Boheme to see the wide range of colours, styles and fabrics available!**



FACTFILE



Bombardier Beetles

Bombardier beetles are a type of ground beetle that are named after the way that they defend themselves. These beetles can spray a hot noxious chemical from a special gland in their abdomens. They can aim the spray at their attackers, killing insects and small animals and proving painful on human skin. The spray is accompanied by a popping noise and puffs of smoke! There are around 500 different species of this beetle and they are found in most parts of the world, except Antarctica and Asia. They live in woods or

grasslands. Bombardier beetles are carnivorous, eating mainly other insects. The streaked bombardier beetle is the UK's rarest insect. Only one colony has been found – in the Thames estuary. It was decided that it had to be moved to make way for housing in the Olympic site development area. The colony was relocated, but it is not known how successful this has been yet. Common bombardier beetles are also found in the UK, but they too are rare. Due to loss of habitat, the UK may soon have none of these unique beetles.

Upcoming events: Want to get active?

Here are some events coming up in the next couple of months to help you get active for animals:



SEPTEMBER

**Monday 20 – Sunday 26:
Animal Aid's National**

Anti-Shooting Week A week of action taking place just before the start of the pheasant shooting season. If you'd like to help in your area, you could write letters to your local papers, distribute leaflets or help out at an info stall. Contact us to find out more.

OCTOBER

**Saturday 2 – March for Farmed
Animals** Rally and march in Central

London to mark World Day for Farmed Animals. Meet 12 noon in Cavendish Square, W1G OPR. For more details, contact rachrexoxy@live.co.uk. Come along with some friends!



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**Saturday 30 – West
Midlands Vegan Festival**

A great event offering all you need for healthy, cruelty-free, eco-friendly living! 11am-5pm at Wolverhampton Civic Hall, North Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1RQ. Admission £1. Find out more at www.veganmidlands.org.uk/festival/home.html or email info@veganmidlands.org.uk



NOVEMBER

Vegan Month
Animal Aid

promotes veganism throughout November, with stalls and food fairs. See our website www.veganmonth.com for a list of organised events or set up your own. You could have an info stall or library display at your school. Contact us for free leaflets and posters.

Saturday 6 – Animal Aid's Sheffield Compassionate

Christmas Fayre Campaign stalls, ethical goods and everything you need for a cruelty-free Christmas! Victoria Hall Methodist Church, Norfolk Street, Sheffield. 11am-4pm. For more details, contact kelly@animalaid.co.uk

Sunday 28 - Animal Aid's South West Christmas Without

Cruelty Fayre A fantastic festival of compassionate living, with stalls from campaign groups and ethical traders. Exeter Corn Exchange, St George Street, Exeter EX1 1BU. 10am-4.30pm.

DECEMBER

**Sunday 5 – Animal Aid's Christmas
Fayre** Come along to our annual

Christmas Fayre, with stalls, speakers, great food and much more. Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX. 10am-5pm. Full details next issue!

Good news for badgers!

The Badger Trust brought a legal challenge against the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to stop the badger cull in Wales.

They were finally successful in July. The WAG has announced that they will not be appealing this decision, so badgers are safe in Wales for now! Thank you to everyone who wrote to minister Elin Jones, asking her to stop the plans. Keep an eye on our website, as the UK coalition government has not yet announced what they are planning. Some ministers have said that they are in favour of a badger cull.



Youth contacts

If you have any questions about campaigning or would like to just chat, you can always get in touch with your local Youth Contact. If you would like to become a contact for your area, get in touch with us.

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www.animalaid.org.uk/youth