

You are PETA: Augustus Club Members in Action

Paula Dax

Augustus Club member Paula Dax learned very early in life that some adults cannot be entrusted with animals.

When she was 3 or 4, her uncle came to see the litter that her dog, Daisy, had just delivered in the basement of her home. He had an axe in his hand, and he had come to dock the puppies' tails. As soon as Paula saw the axe, she ran, terrified, to her mom, who laughed and said, "Silly girl, don't you know a tail is like your hair or fingernail? Puppies simply don't feel it! Animals don't feel pain anyway." At times that night, Paula's cries were louder than the puppies' cries.

This incident helped motivate Paula's animal rights endeavors, which she believes will help reduce not just violence against animals but also violence against humans.

"I've taught school and piano for decades and I'm furious at piano music publishers that print songs depicting silly caricatures of animals in clothes, dancing a jig, or smiling about being in the circus or on a farm," says Paula. "I am furious that children (this music is geared to 5-year-olds) are being lied to about animals and their treatment."

Paula is therefore trying to get songs and references that depict animals in a negative or misleading way taken out of piano music books for children. She points to "Bear on a Bike," which is about a bear who performs at a fair, as a prime example. Another example is "The Elephant," which has the following lyrics:

The elephant's a traveler
From far across the seas
His circus acts are fun to watch
He really likes to please
He also has a roomy trunk
To take where-e're he goes
He gets rewards and treats galore
For funny tricks he knows.

Paula hopes to see the end of the use of animals in circuses before she dies. She believes that when young kids see and play these songs, they are numbed to animal suffering and are taught that animals are ours to use, instead of learning to have compassion and respect for animals' feelings and needs.

Paula is firm in her commitment to her cause. "I have no doubt that I



can accomplish the removal of offensive animal songs from children's piano books. In doing so, I truly believe that I will prevent violence and make many animals' lives much better. There are hundreds of songs [with] varying degrees of disrespect or cruelty or lies."

PETA has written a letter of support for Paula's campaign to eliminate songs that demean animals from children's piano music books. Paula is also looking for support and assistance from other animal advocates and welcomes input from piano and school teachers as well as from people who, when they were children, played songs that depicted animals in the wrong way. She would also like to hear from you if you simply want to help animals and are willing to write a letter to a publisher or want to pass on moral support and suggestions. You can write to Paula at: P.O. Box 426, 1042 E. Fort Union Blvd., Midvale, UT 84047.

Says Paula, "This project is even more important to me than food. It will be my legacy to the next generation!"

Deborah Lee Alfassa

"We should be thankful animals don't speak our language. If we could verbally understand them, they would demand a lot of changes!" So says activist and Augustus Club member Deborah Lee Alfassa, a.k.a. "Spike Lee," who is on a mission—a mission to create an off-leash dog playground in memory of her dog Nyx Lee. "My heart misses him every day. Hopefully the park will help bring a very good thing to the community and visitors."

According to Deborah Lee, such a park is sorely needed in her hometown of Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., which has no walkways, play areas, off-leash beaches, or any other places where dogs can have fun. A year and a half ago, Deborah Lee formed "Bark Park, Inc." She and her board of directors, all of whom are animal lovers and activists, began to campaign for the formation of "Nyx's Playground."

They circulated a petition that got more than 2,000 signatures and have held fundraisers (including a Spring Fling and "Pets on Paw-rade"). They sell jewelry, magnets, soap, T-shirts, and space in recognition of companion animals that will appear on benches in the park. Their efforts have been welcomed by the community and spotlighted in the local newspaper.

This hard work recently paid off. Bark Park, Inc., and the Walton County Board of Commissioners joined together to turn 2 acres of land into a dog park that will provide a safe, fun

environment for canines and their guardians.

In addition to her work to establish "Nyx's Playground," Deborah Lee runs "Auntie Spike's Spoiled Rotten Pets," a service that cares for dogs when their human companions must travel and helps ease the separation anxiety that both dogs and humans may suffer. She also fosters and rescues dogs and helped care for Hurricane Katrina animal victims until they could be reunited with their families.

Deborah Lee shares her life with five rescued dogs, her "fabulous fuzzy children." "I love spending time with them every day, and I arrange my plans around them. They are my life, my reason for getting out of bed every morning."

Deborah Lee is working toward another goal: She wants to see the spaying and neutering of all companion animals mandated before she turns 60.

"I just want to pay back Nyx, so I will continue to help save, socialize, rehabilitate, and love as long as I am on the planet."



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Additionally, we continue to work hard to make a difference in the way our legal system handles individual cases of cruelty to animals. It is infuriating when monstrous crimes against animals are let off with a "slap on the wrist." We lobby for legislation to elevate cruelty to animals from a misdemeanor to a felony-level crime, and we also work to ensure that animal torturers receive the maximum penalties.

Every week, we contact prosecutors and judges to provide information in cases that affect animals. In a case in which a family was sued by a neighbor who was disturbed by their dogs' barking, the judge gave the family three options: move away, get rid of the dogs, or have the dogs' vocal cords cut.

After hearing from us, however, the judge rescinded his order and told a reporter that our materials helped him see that kinder options are available—music to our ears!

It is because of your generous commitment to our work that animals have many more successes to look forward to. Thank you!

Ingrid

PETA's Gift & Estate Planning Club Augustus club



Ingrid's message

In April of last year, our Community Animal Project responded to a concerned neighbor's call about a female pit bull, Asia, who was emaciated and suffering. Chained without food or adequate water, she was a breathing skeleton.

The property owner had no interest in Asia or in improving her condition and surrendered her to us. Asia was too weak to stand or walk without help, and we could see the pain in her eyes; we rushed her to an emergency clinic. Her weight told the tale. At a mere 31 pounds, Asia weighed half her normal body weight. The massive chain by which she had been tethered weighed a stunning 14 pounds!

Asia was too far gone, and the veterinarian recommended euthanasia to alleviate her suffering. A post-mortem examination revealed three painful and deadly intestinal

How We Are Using and Improving the Legal System to Protect Animals

obstructions, more than the operating veterinarian had ever seen in one animal.

To obtain justice for Asia and to send a clear message that such abuse cannot be tolerated, we went to the magistrate's office and arranged for a warrant for cruelty-to-animals charges against the people responsible for Asia's suffering. In December, after months of hearings and continuances, a judge found Asia's "guardians" guilty of cruelty to animals and **prohibited them from owning animals in the future!**

In this issue, we celebrate our success in using the legal system to



gain more protection from society for animals like Asia. We have filed many lawsuits against animal exploiters, resulting in groundbreaking progress, and we have had our share thrown at us.

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Groundbreaking Legal Cases:

Opening the Halls of Justice to Animals

PETA leaves no stone unturned in seeking ways to defend animals from exploitation. As long as it's legal, nonviolent, and effective, we'll do it! PETA's legal team has built a record of precedent-setting cases that will benefit animals for decades to come.

We made history by instigating the **first-ever** felony indictments for cruelty to animals by farm workers.

During a three-month undercover investigation at Belcross Farm, a pig-breeding factory farm in North Carolina, we took hours of video footage that revealed shocking, systematic cruelty to animals, including subjecting animals to daily beatings, bludgeoning pregnant sows with wrenches and metal rods, and even skinning some animals alive.

As a result of our investigation, one of the workers was sentenced to 140 days in jail and three years of supervised probation. The nearly five-month jail sentence is the strongest penalty levied against an individual for cruelty to animals raised for food in U.S. history!

Seaboard Farms (an Oklahoma pig farm) resulted in the first case in which a farmer pleaded guilty to felony cruelty to animals for injuring and killing animals raised for food. These are watershed cases for animals in agriculture who, for centuries, have been denied protection under anti-cruelty statutes.

We also continue to make headway against Kenneth Feld, the owner of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. As you know, for decades PETA has campaigned against the whips, bullhooks, chains, isolation, and beatings that Ringling's animals endure.

We recently filed a lawsuit to uncover Feld's alleged conspiracy to harm PETA and the animal protection movement, during which lawyers for Feld gave us an unintended boost: A judge found that conduct by Feld's attorneys was improper and ordered them to pay sanctions to PETA totaling \$51,305.

Feld's attorneys have been so recalcitrant that the judge subsequently issued sanctions against them for turning over late and

incomplete documents, declaring, "Obtaining discovery (evidence) in this case has been like pulling teeth. It appears the defendant is resisting discovery by all available means." We are prepared for a long and difficult battle, and we will expose Ringling officials' dirty laundry about animal suffering and the tricks that they have used for years to try to thwart us and other animal advocates.

Another groundbreaking case was our lawsuit against KFC and its parent company, Yum! Brands. We sued them for lying to the public about their animal welfare policies. After our lawsuit was filed, KFC and Yum! Brands had to stop making the following **false claims**:

- Chickens raised for KFC suffer no pain or injuries.
- KFC suppliers use "state-of-the-art" slaughter equipment.
- KFC has had an animal welfare policy in place for nearly a decade.
- KFC prohibits its suppliers from giving chickens growth-promoting substances, and humane treatment of the birds is "ensured."

As the first successful case concerning false claims about the treatment of farmed animals, this victory sent shivers down the spines of animal agribusiness executives, who now know that if they want to claim that factory-farmed animals are treated humanely, they had better be able to back it up in court.

PETA is also using the courts to come to the defense of animals who are used in chemical tests. For years,

PETA has sought to reform the testing methods required by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which requires more toxicity testing on animals than any other federal agency. Each year, tens of thousands of animals are given heavy doses of poisons in these extremely painful tests, while more sophisticated, accurate, and humane non-animal methods are ignored by the agency.

We currently have three lawsuits pending against the EPA that challenge its requirements for animal testing. Because the relevance to humans of the EPA's animal tests has never been established, the data cannot be used to regulate chemicals effectively. Indeed, this has already been shown to be true in light of the fact that the EPA has not pulled a single toxic industrial chemical off the market in more than 12 years.

Of course, there have been many times when we have been on the other side of a lawsuit. Lawsuits are popular weapons in our opponents' arsenals as well. One of the most famous instances occurred after we publicized secret video footage of Las Vegas "entertainer" Bobbi Berosini shown mercilessly beating orangutans backstage right before they were scheduled to perform. Berosini sued us for defamation—a move that he no doubt regrets to this day. Not only did he lose his case in court, he was also subsequently

forced to pay PETA hundreds of thousands of dollars in court costs and legal fees.

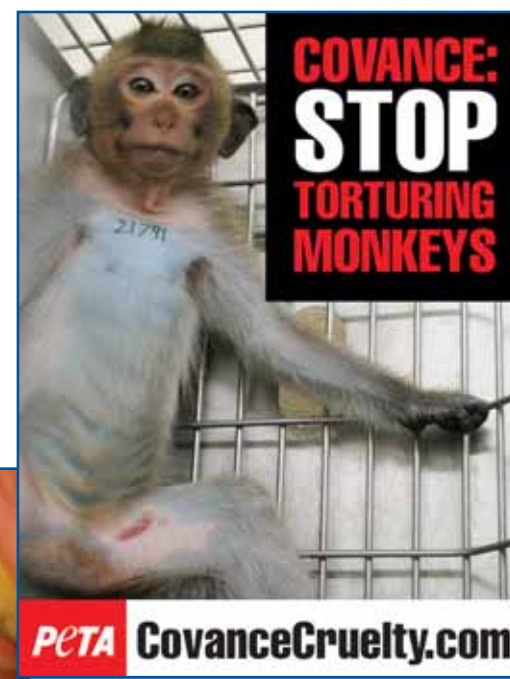
We also recently faced a legal challenge brought by the largest drug-testing company in the world, Covance. After PETA conducted an 11-month undercover investigation inside a Covance laboratory near Washington, D.C., the company tried to stop us from showing the undercover video footage on our Web site. But Covance had to withdraw motions for both a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction, leaving people everywhere free to see Covance's appalling physical and psychological abuse of monkeys for themselves.

In fact, although animal exploiters have lodged many lawsuits against PETA since our inception more than 25 years ago, no one has ever won a case against us!

Of course, no story of PETA's legal successes would be complete without mentioning the historic case of the Silver

Spring monkeys, which made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1981, PETA completed an undercover investigation of a laboratory in Silver Spring, Md., where monkeys lived in filthy cages, were deprived of veterinary care, and had the nerves in their limbs severed, leaving them paralyzed. The ensuing court case resulted in the first-ever conviction of an animal experimenter on charges of animal abuse—launching a brand-new phase in the war against vivisection.

With the help of Augustus Club members like you, whether it's in the courts or anywhere else that animals' rights are being denied, we'll be there to defend them.



Advice From Our Wildlife Biologist, Stephanie Boyles

With the cold weather now upon us and our warm homes and places of business looking ever more inviting to animals who normally make their homes outside, I want to put out a word of warning about glue traps.

Glue traps are horrific killing devices that are made from a piece of board or plastic coated with a sticky adhesive and are designed to capture any small animal who wanders across them. Trapped animals suffer immeasurably in the days that it takes for them to die after they are captured. As they struggle to escape, the adhesive tears their skin, fur, and feathers, and much like animals who are caught in steel-jaw traps, many even chew off their own limbs trying to escape.

Moreover, glue traps are not an effective wildlife control method. Animals killed in these traps will be quickly replaced by new individuals if your home or business remains accessible and attractive. The only long-term solution is to rodent-proof the structure so that it is no longer inviting or accessible to animals.

We urge you not to use glue traps in your home or business. If you see that they are being used, contact those responsible and ask them to stop using them in favor of humane alternatives.

Finally, if you encounter animals who are stuck in glue traps, pour a small amount of cooking or baby oil onto the areas where they are stuck and gently work to set them free.



When tiny guests drop by, turn compassion into action. Humane "smart" traps catch mice alive and unharmed. Purchase yours today at PETACatalog.com.

Could a Charitable Remainder Trust Be Right for You, Your Loved Ones, and Animals?

Charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) are often a viable way for people to put their assets, particularly appreciated assets, to work for themselves and/or their loved ones—and eventually for PETA and animals.

CRTs are designed to provide income to the donor and/or other beneficiaries for life or for a period of up to 20 years. They take their name from the fact that charities such as PETA are the eventual beneficiaries (remainder beneficiaries) of the trust's assets after the trust terminates upon the passing of the lifetime beneficiaries.

Because of its charitable orientation, there is no immediate capital gains tax on the transfer into the trust of appreciated long-term assets or on their subsequent sale by the trust. Additionally, an immediate charitable tax deduction can be taken for the portion of the trust that will eventually be transferred to PETA.

Overall, CRTs are a good vehicle to increase income from low-yielding assets, diversify investments, reduce or eliminate capital gains taxes that would otherwise be due, create a source of income for you and/or your

loved ones, and leave a compassionate gift for animals.

Please note that under IRS Rev. Proc. 2005-24, a CRT created after June 28, 2005, may fail to qualify from the date of its creation if the donor's spouse does not irrevocably waive the right of election to the CRT assets under state law in the manner prescribed by the revenue procedure. For more details about the revenue procedure or CRTs in general, please contact Tim Enstice, PETA's planned gifts manager, at 757-962-8213 or TimE@petaf.org.