

Maine Animal Coalition - Dedicated to the elimination of animal abuse and exploitation through education, advocacy and example.

MAC Joins The Humane League’s Animal Policy Alliance

In November, Maine Animal Coalition accepted an invitation to join The Humane League’s Animal Policy Alliance. The Animal Policy Alliance is a group of organizations across the US creating city and state-level policy change with a shared vision to end cruel treatment of animals.

The Animal Policy Alliance currently is a coalition of 27 organizations from 17 states and the District of Columbia. Members are diverse. For example, The Society for the Protection of Insects is one of the newest members.

Founded in 2005, the Humane League is an international nonprofit that through corporate, media and community outreach is reducing the suffering of animals raised for food or fur. For over a decade, Animal Charity Evaluators has selected The Humane League as a recommended charity. And Open Philanthropy has awarded The Humane League over 28 million dollars in grants since 2016.

The Animal Policy Alliance provides members resources, grants, and ample networking opportunities through a Listserv, monthly Zoom meetings, individual meetings with The Humane League staff, and an annual gathering.

A legislative “Toolkit” is an example of resources provided to Animal Policy Alliance members. A Toolkit includes model legislation, fact sheets and additional background information supporting proposed legislation.

Also, when appropriate, The Humane League will mobilize its supporters behind campaigns of Animal Policy Alliance members.

Maine Animal Coalition President Beth Gallie said, “We were delighted to be asked to join the Animal Policy Alliance, and we are looking forward to its help in increasing our effectiveness in the coming years.”



MAC Covers the Legislature in 2024

MAC covered the second or “short” session of the Maine Legislature, which began on



January 2nd and adjourned on May 10th. As required by the Maine Constitution, the second session deals with a limited number

of matters. These include budgetary matters, legislation submitted by the Governor, legislation deemed by the Legislature to be

an “emergency,” bills held over from the first session, and citizen initiatives.

During the second session the Legislature consider approximately 750 bills, including over 500 that were carryover bills from the long session of the Legislature. MAC closely followed two carry over bills, LD 710 An Act to Fund the Lobster Legal Defense Fund and LD 1823 An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food. (LD 1823 was a clumsy attempt to incorporate a Right to Hunt into Maine’s constitutional Right to Food.) Fortunately, neither bill passed.

Maine Climate Council’s Plan Falls Short

In 2024 the Maine Climate Council updated its “Maine Won’t Wait” climate plan. MAC’s president attended a couple of public meetings of the food subcommittee. At each meeting she was allowed to address the subcommittee.

Gallie and other animal advocates urged the Maine Climate Council to encourage Mainers to reduce their consumption of animal products to combat climate change.

Studies show that animal agriculture is responsible for as much as 16% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions and creates about the same greenhouse gas emissions as the transportation sector. (Not to mention that eating less meat and dairy

is good for one’s health and good for the overall environment.)

Our advice was disregarded. The 2024 “Maine Won’t Wait” food plan is to increase the amount of food consumed in Maine

from Maine food producers to 30% by 2030. This would reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with long-distance food transportation.



MAINE
CLIMATE COUNCIL

It wasn’t all bad news. The Maine Climate Council’s new

plan supports reducing food waste. And many Maine communities are creating local plans to combat climate change, which provides additional opportunities to nudge people away from eating animals.

MAC Presents Dr. Michael Greger and Donates Books



On the evening of June 23rd, MAC presented Dr. Michael Greger at the Westin Harborview Hotel in Portland. Portland was the last stop on Dr. Greger's

six-month book tour for his latest book, *How Not to Age*, The Scientific Approach to Getting Healthier as You Get Older. In attendance were 130 health-conscious individuals, many of who were already big fans of Dr. Greger.

Dr. Greger, M.D. is a graduate of Tufts University of Medicine and a founding member of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. *How Not to Age*, a 600-page book, explains the latest scientific research on aging. Not surprisingly, the research shows that a whole foods plant-based diet is key to a long, healthy life.

After the presentation MAC donated 44 copies of *How Not to Age* to Maine public libraries. Check your local library for a copy. If your library

does not have a copy, you may obtain a copy free via Interlibrary Loan.

This was the third time MAC has hosted Dr. Greger. Always ahead of his time, in 2007 Dr. Greger came to Portland to discuss his book *Bird Flu, A Virus of Our Own Hatching*.

We recently asked Dr. Greger if he would agree with our assessment that he is really making a difference in the medical community.

Dr. Greger replied. "2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, for which plant-based eating is considered a key health pillar. This is being taken to heart by, for example, the largest city in the country that instituted default plant based meals throughout their hospital system--Big Apple indeed!"

Dr. Greger is currently working on his next book, which is about cancer. We hope that MAC will be able to host him again soon.

We Answer Your Calls

In 2024, MAC answered over 300 calls from Mainers concerned about animals. Many of the calls were about injured animals who needed immediate medical care. We referred many of these calls to Avian Haven in Freedom and the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick. And in 2024, MAC donated \$500 each to these two excellent organizations.

MAC Promotes

Companion

Animal

Sterilization Fund

Tax Checkoff.

SCHEDULE CP Form (AMBE) 2023		Charitable Contributions and Purchase of Park Passes						
For more information, go to www.maine.gov/treasury/charitable		Enter the date below (DD-MMM-YY)						
AND SHOULD FILE SCHEDULE CPY (You must file the Schedule CP form to make voluntary charitable contributions to any of the organizations listed below or your choice to purchase a park pass for only the Maine State Parks. Otherwise, do not file the Schedule CP form.)		Enter the date below (DD-MMM-YY)						
1. Companion Animal Sterilization Fund		\$5	\$10	\$25	Other	\$	1	.00
2. Maine Children's Trust		\$5	\$10	\$25	Other	\$	2	.00
3. Companion Animal Sterilization Fund		\$5	\$10	\$25	Other	\$	3	.00
4. Maine Wildlife Family Relief Fund		\$5	\$10	\$25	Other	\$	4	.00
5. Maine Veterinary Resource Center		\$5	\$10	\$25	Other	\$	5	.00
6. Maine Public Library Fund		\$5	\$10	\$25	Other	\$	6	.00
7. Maine Children's Trust		\$5	\$10	\$25	Other	\$	7	.00
8. Companion Animal Sterilization Program Fund		\$5	\$10	\$25	Other	\$	8	.00
9. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (plus any through 8)								500.00

2024 Veg Fest - A Great Place to Make Connections

On Saturday October 26th, MAC hosted its 19th Annual Veg Fest at the East End Community School in Portland. Approximately 350 people attended.

As expected, the speakers were excellent. Michael Burrows demonstrated how to make tempeh at home. Melissa Andrews of Peace Ridge Sanctuary spoke on “Why Animal Sanctuaries are a Key Part of the Animal Rights Movement.” Seth Tibbott gave an autobiographical talk, “My Tofurky Journey.” And Joshua Velasquez discussed the challenges of being an entrepreneur in his presentation, “Crafting Exceptional Dairy-Free Cheese, Sustainable Growth, and Community.”

Eight new vendors and exhibitors participated in the fest. These include Earthsoul Nutrition Therapy, Go-En Fermented Foods, Kimchi Beyond Compare, Lifestyle Medicine, Maine

Flavor, New England Animal Sanctuary, New Roots Institute, and Vertical Gardens.

Seth Tibbott, creator of Tofurky, arrived in Portland a couple of days before the fest and eagerly met with producers of plant-based products and animal rights activists. (Seth is not only an expert on plant-based foods, but he is also active in the animal rights movement and is a vegan history buff.) His efforts were really appreciated by all who were lucky enough to spend time with him.

As always, the fest was a place to make connections and get excited about the movement. For example, attending the fest were two vegan candidates for the Maine Legislature, Suzy Johnson and Dylan Pugh. Shortly after the fest, Dylan was elected to the House.



Myranda McGowan



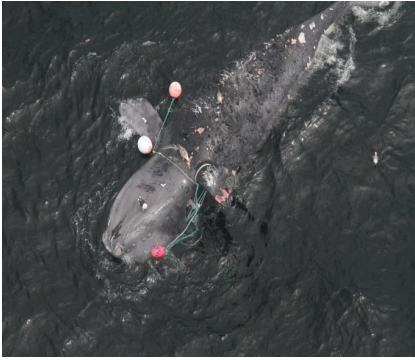
Sarah Speare, Avery Yale Kamilla, Seth Tibbott



Daeun Kim

Sign up for our weekly emails at maineanimalcoalition.org!

MAC Confronts the Lobster Industry



On January 28th, a young, female right whale was found dead on Martha's Vinyard. The cause of death was declared by NOAA as "chronic

entanglement" and the ropes belonged to a Maine lobsterman.

This tragic event did not come as a surprise. NOAA has found that fishing gear entanglements have caused 80% of the 122 incidents that killed or seriously injured right whales since 2017.

Despite the facts, Dustin Delano declared in an Op-Ed piece published in the Portland Press Herald: "My organization - the New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association – and our many partners are prepared to ward off any attempt to scapegoat Maine lobstermen for the declining population of the majestic right whale."

MAC's President Beth Gallie responded in a published letter to the editor:

My response to the March 12th opinion piece, "Maine lobstermen will not be scapegoated over right whale," is that I do blame the lobster industry for the deaths of right whales, entangled in their ropes. Previously, there were no identifying markers on their ropes allowing the lobster industry to escape responsibility.

But there are others besides the lobster industry to blame. For example, I blame the lobster industry's customers, who created the demand for lobster.

I blame the governor for allocating \$3 million in her biennial budget to pay for legal fees to defeat lawsuits against the industry. And I blame the Maine Legislature for passing the budget.

I blame Maine's congressional delegation for sponsoring a bill that made an end run around the Endangered Species Act.

Finally, I blame all the good Mainers who have not spoken up out of fear of losing friends and financial support.

My wish is that the lobster industry faces the facts, stops spreading misinformation and gets on with modernizing their fishing practices.



Maine Animal Coalition Board

President: *Beth Gallie*
Treasurer: *Rebecca Zinkowski*
Secretary: *Joshua Kidwell*

Maine Animal Coalition Financial Report 2024

Income	
Individual contributions	\$ 12,643.45
Events	\$ 4,418.50
Grants	\$ 1,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 120.04
TOTAL	\$ 18,681.99

Expenses	
Program	\$ 19,771.08
Operating	\$ 930.00
TOTAL	\$ 20,701.08

Total Cash Assets	
January 1, 2024	\$ 17,501.45
December 31, 2024	\$ 15,482.36
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Total Net Assets	\$ 15,482.36

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_____ \$30/individual _____ \$40/family _____ \$50 supporting _____ \$100 sustaining

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