



To Be Well, Humanity Must Eradicate Animal Abuse, Not Just COVID

That is a tough nut to crack with animal abuse built into every aspect of civilization. RPA's big-picture advocacy points institutions in the right direction.

By David Cantor

"And this is the forbidden truth, the unspeakable taboo - that evil is not always repellent but frequently attractive." - Joyce Carol Oates

COVID-19 vaccines are anticipated with due enthusiasm. But unfortunately, eliminating COVID-19 will not make humanity well. Animal abuse - all that human beings do to and with other animals and their natural homes and ecosystems - has channeled disease from other animals to human bodies for thousands of years. Eliminate a disease and one source of misery and fear goes away; eliminate the *animal abuse-human misery cycle* and thousands will.

Since everyone but psychopaths favors "humane treatment of animals," it seems like it should be easy to halt the animal abuse that causes human beings to sicken and die. But animal abuse is far vaster and more thoroughly woven into civilization than we would know from any of our institutions, even prominent animal-advocacy organizations. Because human beings are innately humane, civilization keeps its animal-abuse systems going by keeping the public in a perpetual state of unreality. Universities, news, schools, industries, youth groups, professional associations, and other institutions provide infinite facts, information, knowledge, and opinions - all without telling the truth.

All of our institutions promote animal abuse and therefore human disease. Here, I'll explain how RPA pressures two of our most powerful institutions to help halt the animal abuse-human misery cycle: the agriculture-college system and the news industry.

University Animal-Abuse Training

Imagine how much better off human beings, other animals, and the rest of the living world would be if our massive network of agriculture colleges at 105 land-grant universities (LGUs) promoted human wellbeing rather than the animal abuse-human misery cycle. They could start by teaching *agriculture* - cultivation of fields - and

"All of our institutions promote animal abuse and therefore human disease."

ceasing their animal-abuse training, lobbying, propaganda, experimentation, research, marketing, and sales for the meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries. In programs called "animal science," they teach the *meat delusion*, a manufactured set of false and harmful industry-serving beliefs that ...

... human beings are natural omnivores, predators, and hunter-gatherers;

... there can be "humane" meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries;

... there can be ecologically sound meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries;

... the standard American diet (SAD) is healthful; and

... there can be meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries that do not sicken and poison human beings.

Misleading students, entire university communities, newsmen, officials, and the public about food, and promoting rather than debunking the meat delusion, makes our LGUs responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic and a great deal of other human misery. Our LGUs are especially culpable in disease and food-poisoning outbreaks, as well as climate breakdown and other ecological disasters, since RPA began explicitly decrying "animal science" to them in 2003.

There is also evidence that LGUs with nutrition-science programs suppress, rather than teach, up-to-date findings in nutrition science. Nutrition science has long confirmed that human beings must eat plants-only for optimal health. But you can earn a Ph.D. in nutrition science at an LGU yet remain ignorant of the world's preeminent nutrition scientist, Cornell University Professor Emeritus T. Colin Campbell, Ph.D. Decades of research led Dr. Campbell to conclude that any nutrient obtained from animals is better obtained from plants, and that eating from animals is linked to the most widespread life-threatening noncommunicable diseases.

Had our LGUs paid attention to RPA's long-standing science-based recommendations, civilization might not be crippled by the current COVID-19 pandemic, for one thing. The virus spilled over to human beings not just from an abused nonhuman animal

continued on page 2

Zoom Broadens RPA's Reach During Shutdown

By David Cantor

Ironically, a disease pandemic rooted in animal abuse gave broader reach to RPA's educational events aimed at reducing animal abuse. RPA used to hold in-person meetings. Now we hold Zoom sessions. For building a radical political movement, meeting face to face is invaluable. That is how radical movements have arisen in the past. But when RPA gave presentations in its Philadelphia locality and in other cities such as Miami, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., Albany, Cleveland, Raleigh, and Wheeling, participation was limited by the distance people would reasonably travel.

Zoom, by contrast, enables people to take part from hundreds or thousands of miles away. That is what happened as RPA adopted Zoom. Here, briefly, is what the first two RPA Zoom sessions were about.

The July 12, 2020, session was titled **The Delusional Ape: False Beliefs Fueling Animal Abuse and Human Misery**. The **Killer-Ape Delusion** holds that human beings naturally destroy each other and nonhuman animals. In reality, human beings by nature are peaceable and weaponless. Violence is produced by civilization, not by human nature.

The **Civilization Delusion** holds that civilization manifests "human progress" – without civilization, human beings would know only violence, chaos, poverty, and misery. Reality: Civilization, not nature, generates those dreaded conditions.

The **Entitlement Delusion** holds human beings entitled to other animals' bodies and their natural homes and ecosystems, and to determine other animals' lives and experience – perfect prescription for abuse.

The August 16, 2020, session was titled **We the Persons: Political Activities the Animals Need**. Animal-abuse policy is central to civ-

In addition to its members,
Responsible Policies for Animals is . . .

Board of Directors

David Cantor, President
David Sauder, Vice President
Rob Teti, Treasurer
Irene Lotka, Secretary

Staff

David Cantor, Executive Director

Correspondent

Ben Lotka

Volunteers

Caleb Wistar, Information Specialist

Persons cover art: Rebecca Lotka and David Cantor.

Responsible Policies for Animals, a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt educational nonprofit organization, promotes equal rights of all animals the way equal human rights become established. RPA members donate \$25 or more and receive RPA's unique bumper sticker, newsletter, brochures, and e-Updates. On request, RPA considers ill, indigent, or imprisoned persons for donation-free honorary membership. Donate to RPA at www.RPAforAll.org or by mail.



Responsible Policies for Animals

RPA@rpa1.org

P.O. Box 891, Glenside, PA 19038, USA

215-886-RPA1

www.RPAforAll.org

ilization, with nonhuman animals defined as pets, threats, property, commodities, pests, junk, game, food – non-persons with no rights, regardless of our feelings toward them. To fix that, we must shift to radical (not militant) political activity – the kind that initiated the ongoing liberation of human beings from tyranny.

Early in 2021, RPA will host a Zoom presentation & discussion on **the history of animal abuse**, explaining how animal abuse became a foundation of civilization; why every aspect of civilization has an animal-abuse component; what it will take to reduce animal abuse and end the animal abuse-human misery cycle; and why standard animal advocacy cannot accomplish these crucial objectives. ★

continued from page 1

at a meat market but from the meat delusion. Our LGUs use smart-sounding jargon to rationalize animal abuse and SAD – "animal science," "poultry science," "dairy science," "aquaculture" (fish factories), "bovine science," and the like. But nothing changes the reality that human beings are natural herbivores and should expect to suffer by eating from animals.

Campaigning Against Animal-Abuse Training

Responsible Policies for Animals long ago began urging our LGUs to phase out "animal science." We have . . .

. . . sent hundreds of letters, factsheets, books, videos, and other information to the presidents and trustees of all fifty states' main LGUs, the fifty states' agriculture secretaries, and other decisionmakers; . . . delivered information to more

than thirty powerful U.S. Congressional leaders;

... written letters in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Utne Reader*, *World-Watch* magazine, and other publications;

... advertised in two national academic periodicals and in LGU newspapers, and published op-ed articles in LGU newspapers;

... petitioned university accreditation agencies to decertify universities that teach “animal science”;

... written several times to the fifty states’ governors, who are trustees of their states’ LGUs; and

... contacted authors, experts, and LGU student organizations seeking alliances in the effort to eliminate “animal science.”

Our LGUs are partly funded and heavily influenced by life-destroying industries advancing the Animal-Abuse Revolution. The drive is always to do more, never less, to turn the natural world into money for human beings. Ralph Nader and many other authorities attest to our LGUs’ sell-out to big business in recent generations.

Recent Campaign Actions

In the spring 2020 issue of *Persons*, we reported an urgent email from RPA to LGU presidents linking the COVID-19 pandemic to their stonewalling RPA on “animal science” through the years. This fall, with the pandemic still raging, RPA sent its ninth mailing to the presidents of all fifty states’ top LGUs. The detailed cover letter emphasized that, had our LGUs told the human world that preventing infectious disease was a major reason they were phasing out “animal science,” our species could have been spared COVID-19. RPA’s letter reads in part, “It is heartbreaking to reflect on the misery that could have been avoided if ... our ... LGUs had acted responsibly from the time RPA first began to inform their administrators and trustees of far-reaching harm from ‘animal science.’”

Enclosed with the letter was RPA’s white paper “The Case for Ending ‘Animal Science’ Documented,” which provides sources on health, environment, and humane bases for eliminating “animal science,” and

RPA’s color brochure *Human Misery: The Animal-Abuse Factor* outlining how the animal abuse-human misery cycle burgeoned over thousands of years, misguided use of animals for food a major factor.

After RPA’s letter reached the LGU presidents, RPA emailed the letter, and links to the white paper and brochure, to editors of the same fifty LGUs’ online student newspapers, urging them to report on the “animal science” problem. Since LGU communities are enormous – students, parents, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni – their newspapers can reach large audiences. We will report any coverage that we can learn of.

Betrayal of Humanity

Our LGUs were established to serve farmers feeding people plants. But long ago, they began emphasizing industrial-scale meat, dairy, fish, eggs, and crops fed to nonhuman animals.

“Imagine our agriculture colleges promoting wellbeing rather than animal abuse.”

“Animal science” provides billions of dollars in services to the industries. The industries then have all the more funds for advertising, public relations, and marketing – perfect tools for reinforcing the meat delusion in the public mind.

Our LGUs influence global food production and beliefs about food. If the global economy is to stop depending on animal abuse, these powerful institutions will have to start telling the truth and stop teaching the meat delusion. Disease spillover from nonhuman animals would not happen if human beings, natural herbivores, were not falsely led to believe that all variety of contact between human beings and other animals were natural

and beneficial – even “humane” – when it is really abuse.

Early in my three decades as a full-time animal advocate, I grasped that all of the well-intended and right-minded promotions of plants-only eating by animal advocacy, environmentalism, and public health would fail to overtake the growth of the meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries as long as esteemed “institutions of higher learning” persisted in promoting those industries. This has proven true to date.

News: Guardian of Speciesism

The news industry is a major engine of speciesism; therefore, of the animal abuse-human misery cycle. Not because newsmen are more anti-life or anti-nonhuman animal than people in other occupations; just because news evades and suppresses realities that upset audiences and advertisers. Maintaining an economy dependent on animal abuse requires defaming and debasing nonhuman animals, calling animal abuse other things, and erasing from human consciousness the scope and intensity of animal abuse, the animal abuse-human misery cycle, and the experience of Earth’s quadrillions of abused nonhuman animals.

Not that news informs the public of *human* suffering. Consider just the daily reports of car crashes and shootings and the erasure of pain experienced at the scene and painful procedures and recoveries in the aftermath. The abuse of human beings by profit industries like auto and gun is integral to the economy like the abuse of other animals. News reports some abuses of human beings but very little of their suffering. News does not even scratch the surface on the abuse of *nonhuman* animals.

The only abuse of nonhuman animals that news calls abuse is cruelty to animals, abuse done for the purpose of causing pain and suffering – the only unlawful abuse. Cruelty is a minuscule portion of animal abuse – nearly all animal abuse is done for purposes such as profit, career-building, recreation, companionship, entertainment, experimentation, research,

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

sport, and others that news treats as legitimate and never calls abuse.

Campaigning for Truthful News

Responsible Policies for Animals has long written to newsmen, asking them to stop erasing animal abuse from human consciousness and to stop promoting delusions that fuel animal abuse. Contradicting standard news content, RPA explains to news editors, producers, broadcasters, and writers, for example, that ...

- ... human beings are not by their nature biologically entitled to nonhuman animals for any purpose;
- ... animals are *not* healthful sources of protein in the human diet;
- ... human beings are not natural omnivores, predators, or hunter-gatherers;
- ... human beings are not naturally

“The news industry is a major engine of speciesism.”

- violent but cooperative, empathetic, and altruistic;
- ... pet-breeding prevents nonhuman animals from living fulfilling lives;
- ... using nonhuman animals for food heats Earth’s climate faster than burning fossil fuels;

... original human beings led happier, healthier, and more fulfilling lives than humans in civilization;

... animal abuse, not nature, puts deadly diseases into human bodies.

I heard a public-radio broadcaster state that human beings acquired the current COVID-19 pandemic “from nature.” Yet it is unnatural for a meat market to exist. As it is for human beings to do anything to or with other animals. Erasing animal abuse as a root cause of the pandemic lessens our species’ ability to prevent future disease outbreaks. Thousands of yet-unknown viruses are estimated to inhabit nonhuman animals, ready to spill over into human beings who violate those animals’ natural boundaries.

Like our agriculture colleges at our land-grant universities, discussed above, news venues are corporations. Whether for-profit like *The New York Times* or nonprofit like NPR, news venues strive to maximize revenues. Audience size and advertising revenues (“underwriting” of nonprofit venues) are major factors in news revenues. Truth-telling threatens both audience size and advertising, because it exposes the abuse and suffering involved in all industries and income sources.

While news will not become a thoroughgoing truth-telling endeavor in every area of life, a great many newsmen wish to tell the truth but are themselves awash in conventional wisdom manufactured by industries and institutions that dominate civilization. Some will begin to subvert

conventional wisdom once they grasp the harm done by civilization’s animal-abuse coverup.

What the Future Holds

Responsible Policies for Animals does not push false hope that if lots of people will change their diet or place

“A public-radio broadcaster said humans got COVID-19 ‘from nature.’”

phone calls or write letters, they can reduce animal abuse. There has never been a reduction in animal abuse, only steady increase and intensification, since human beings started killing their natural predators with manufactured weapons in prehistoric times. Animal abuse and speciesist ideologies have enormous momentum.

But by persistently demanding that our institutions stop promoting falsehoods and start telling the truth about animal abuse and the human misery it causes – and by showing ever more people what we are telling our institutions – together, we can eradicate the delusions that fuel animal abuse, enabling people to create a better future for the entire living world. ★

Dear Reader,

Thank you for enabling Responsible Policies for Animals to operate these past seventeen years, demanding that our institutions stop promoting animal abuse and speciesism.

To ensure that RPA's crucial activities for human beings and other animals will continue and intensify in coming months and years, make your most generous possible donation to today. Thank you!

Have a happy and rewarding 2021 as we all struggle for a more just and well humanity.

All best wishes,

David C. & RPA's Board of Directors