

Take a Stand on Animal Abuse

by: Mary Catherine

Introduction

Have you ever wondered how many animals are abused each day? Have you ever wondered where you get your meat? Do you walk past a dog in the window and wonder what it has gone through just to be loved? Think about this: a puppy is born in an abusive puppy mill where she is not well fed and is shunned by her own mother, then shipped to a pet store, waiting day by day just to have a family. Or a baby piglet. Since birth, it has lived in a pen, with her other brothers and sisters but was abused by farmers and was put on the edge of a road one day to starve.

Explain the Issue

Slaughterhouses and animal abuse is growing worse by the day. Every year, 7 million cats go homeless. Some chicks are rejected at birth. The rejected chicks are disposed of by either being suffocated, or being ground up alive in a grinding machine. 47 states have laws against animal abuse. 3 states do not, but even in the places where there is a law against it, they rebel against it. In 2007, 1,212 dogs were abused and 335 cats were abused in the US. In the U.S., more than 9½ billion chickens, turkeys, and duck, 120 million pigs, 40 million cattle, 3 million sheep, and 600,000 goats were killed for food in 2004. They are killed in painful ways, such as being boiled or having their heads cut off. Most puppy mills have no veterinary care, climate control, or protection for the animals from weather (hot, cold, rain, or snow).

This problem is growing worse by the day and it will continue this way if we don't make changes. It is important for animals to have the same rights as us, for they are just as human. As a community, we need to join together and help stop abuse of animals and Slaughterhouses not just here, but the whole world.

Slaughterhouses and animal abuse is a big problem in the world. The Humane Slaughter Act is an act that says all animals have to be slaughtered federally but many rebel against this and slaughter their animals illegally. The problem is that people are breaking the rule not only by slaughtering but also there are animals who are constantly abused. The ASPCA and other organizations can't do all of the work by themselves.

This issue affects both animals and people both locally and globally. According to the graph to the right, in 2006, more than 2000 animals were abused. For example, I know a dog

who went blind from being abused repeatedly. This affected not only the dog and her owner, but me. I started to think how many other animals have had to suffer under these conditions or worse. Imagine how many dogs or cats go blind or deaf or even lose a life because of us. This could affect society because Society because in order to improve a community, no matter how big or small, you have to fix the problems you have before improving and moving on to a better society. This can affect the world because in many ways. First, if people continue to abuse their animals and disown their animals, there will be a population problem. Also, if some of the meat we eat were not fed properly before that, people could get sick.

Method of Change

The head of animal rights is concerned that that the ASPCA and other organizations are not doing enough. Thankfully, the ASPCA has announced that the NYPD will be helping us in our journey to prevent animal cruelty. But again, even the NYPD and the ASPCA can't take us all the way. Also, in Dodoma, Tanzania, filthy slaughterhouses are being shut down by the minister. If Tanzania can do it, so can we. A man named Gene Baur created a farm sanctuary. He thinks that farming factories put a lot of strain on the environment. He says that it wastes our natural resources such as water, earth, etc. In his farm sanctuary, he adopts farm animals and raises them and does not kill them for food.

Call for action

Currently, in Iowa, they banned cameras and journalists or people who want to expose their secrets in animal factories. They did this so that people would not find out how horribly they treat their animals. Unfortunately, Utah followed in Iowa's footsteps and also signed a bill preventing camera's in animal factories. In Beaver, Utah, a farming factory called Circle four have churned out more than 4 million pigs in a year. Animal advocates got mad about this. They protested and fought but they refuse to change it. I interviewed my mother and other family members. They all agree that it should be removed because people want to know where they get their meat and how the animals are handled.

There are many organizations that help Animal abuse and slaughterhouses. One is the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or better known as the ASPCA. The ASPCA is a chain of animal shelters made to rescue and protect stray animals. They recruit volunteers to help them go around the community and pick up stray animals and try to decrease the number of animals abused.

As a Middle School student, there are many things you can do. Try to learn more about your local animal shelter. See if you can help by advertising the shelter and recommending it to friends or family who are looking for a pet. Volunteering for a shelter is a big commitment but if you have the time then I say go for it. If you have old baby toys or towels then they would be a great help for teething puppies or the towels will make great beds for animals.

Underneath, there is a chart of organizations that help this cause. It has the name, what it does and of course, their contact information.

Animal Defense League	Promote kind and humane treatment of animals and to aid and assist the enforcement of laws enacted for the prevention of animal cruelty	Visit http://adltexas.org/ or call 210-655-1481
Mercy For Animals	Try to stop slaughterhouses by sending people undercover.	Visit http://www.mercyforanimals.org/investigations.aspx To learn more.
Animal Defenders International or ADI	Help exotic or endangered animals in many different ways ranging from research to going undercover.	To learn more, visit http://www.ad-international.org/about_us/go.php?si=131
Animal Legal Defense Fund, or the ALDF	They help by filling in lawsuits about animal cruelty.	Visit http://aldf.org/about-us/ For more info
Best Friends	Have many	For more, visit http://bestfriends.org/

Animal Society	locations and for each location they have their own goal that connects to animal homelessness	
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To help these organizations, I am going to create a fundraiser called 'Animal's Voices'. I am going to ask my friends and family to donate toys, food, or blankets to my organization and then I am going to send it out to shelters our farms in need.

Conclusion

In my report, I have informed you about animal abuse and slaughter houses and ways you can help. I have given you information on some of the organizations that are trying to help and how this affects us. I hope that after my presentation, you will try to take action. Together, we can make a change.

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