

WINTER 2013



International Society for Animal Rights

Law and Education Serving Animals

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## President's Message

Dear Supporters and Friends,

As most of you know, since ISAR's founding in 1959 we have maintained our firm commitment to use law and education to further the cause of animal rights. Public education about animal rights, both theoretical and practical, has long been a primary activity of ISAR, and will continue to be a core element of our activities.

The following is a brief description of just three of ISAR's important programs for 2013.

## Stop Devocalization Now

Last year ISAR introduced and implemented our most recent program, **Stop Devocalization Now**. Its purpose is twofold: to enlighten the public about the barbaric practice of surgically cutting the vocal cords of canines (and occasionally felines), and to provide animal rights activists with the tools to seek legislative prohibition of devocalization, a procedure virtually always performed for the convenience of the animals' custodians not for the benefit of the dog or cat.

In an effort to foster a national discussion about devocalization, and to arm those likeminded people and organizations who are willing to work toward ending the practice, ISAR created the **Stop Devocalization Now** Project ([www.stopdevocalizationnow.org](http://www.stopdevocalizationnow.org)). As far as we know, ISAR's website is the only international resource for information about how to end devocalization through legislation.

Since the launch of ISAR's stand-alone **Stop Devocalization Now** website, we have alerted animal rights advocates around the world about the urgent need to stop the horrific practice of companion animal devocalization. We've used our newsletter, e-newsletter, press releases, blog, social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter as well as producing and promoting videos on Xtranormal and Youtube.

ISAR has also been interviewed on "Animals Today Radio," as well as having interviewed world-renowned animal behaviorist and bestselling author, Dr. Nicholas Dodman. When asked if devocalization surgery was painful, Dr. Dodman stated emphatically that "I believe it's a very painful procedure. . . . You're sometimes cutting out, sometimes burning out vocal cords . . . and you're just leaving remnants, a sort of tattered scar of these vocal cords there in a very sensitive area, which is the throat. So is it painful? Yes. And is it mutilative, yes." (Note: both interviews can be found in their entirety on our **Stop Devocalization Now** website.)

As a direct result of ISAR's anti-devocalization project, some of our supporters have come forward to condemn this barbaric practice. Jane S. of Pennsylvania wrote, "Thank you for the identification of the devocalization of dogs and for all of your continuous efforts!" while Kristian N. of Sweden had this to say, "As a veterinarian I am ashamed that some of my American colleagues are taking part in this unnatural and unhealthy modification of healthy animals to make them suit their owners. Fortunately, this is illegal in Europe. USA should follow."

**Stop Devocalization Now  
Volunteers Wanted**



For further information:

[www.stopdevocalizationnow.org](http://www.stopdevocalizationnow.org)

At this time, ISAR is seeking support from volunteers to help us end devocalization. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, ISAR itself can't lobby for or against the enactment of legislation, but we can certainly support those who will fight for legislation to end devocalization in the United States.

A volunteer need only identify at least one sympathetic legislator, provide him or her with the material contained on ISAR's **Stop Devocalization Now** website—especially **ISAR's Model Anti-Devocalization Statute**. And then encourage the legislator to solicit co-sponsors in support of the Model Statute.

Once the bill is introduced and assigned to a committee, volunteers should identify sympathetic members of that committee and seek their support for the bill.

On its website, ISAR has provided a lengthy Table of Contents for "Get Political for Animals and Win the Laws They Need" ([www.stopdevocalizationnow.org/law\\_and\\_legislation\\_lobby.html](http://www.stopdevocalizationnow.org/law_and_legislation_lobby.html).) This book contains detailed information and instructions about how to lobby on behalf of

animals.

If you are interested in joining ISAR in this important crusade please email Susan Dapsis at [contact@isaronline.org](mailto:contact@isaronline.org).

As a small "thank you" for considering volunteering, please accept the enclosed bumper sticker—and use it to further ISAR's mission of enlightening others to *stop devocalization now!* (Limited quantities of ISAR's **Stop Devocalization Now** bumper stickers are available from ISAR headquarters and can be obtained by contacting us by mail, phone, fax or email. Animal shelters, rescues, veterinary offices, pet grooming salons, etc...are encouraged to contact ISAR for information on obtaining larger quantities of ISAR's **Stop Devocalization Now** bumper stickers for distribution.)

With the help of likeminded people, whose volunteer participation we sincerely solicit, this is one battle dogs and cats can win.

## ISAR'S INTERNATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS' DAY® 2013

On August 18, 2012, ISAR's conceived and commemorated International Homeless Animals' Day was observed for the twenty-first consecutive year with Candlelight Vigil observances held in more than 20 American states, Canada and at least 10 other foreign venues including Australia, China, Cyprus, France, Guam, Malaysia, Panama, Russia, South Africa, and Switzerland.

ISAR launched this unprecedented national crusade in 1992 to enlighten the public, elected officials, and the media to the tragedy of pet overpopulation and the dire need for spay/neuter resources to help curb the killing of millions of dogs, cats, puppies and kittens each year. Now, more than twenty-one years later, our observances have consistently grown in number. They bring together people all over the world to shed light on pet overpopulation and the spay/neuter solution. To date, International Homeless Animals' Day has been celebrated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, in over 50 countries and on 6 continents, with an enormous positive impact on the spay/neuter movement.

ISAR extends a heartfelt invitation to all of our veteran International Homeless Animals' Day event coordinators, as well as to a host of new ones, who join with us in solidarity to raise awareness of the plight of homeless animals.

International Homeless Animals' Day observances provide an important opportunity, among other benefits, to:

- Enlighten communities about local animal services available to the public.

- Raise much needed funds to support spay/neuter programs.
- Increase adoptions by showcasing adoptable pets.
- Educate communities of the importance of spaying/neutering to alleviate pet overpopulation.

Please don't miss this wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of dog and cat overpopulation and the spay/neuter solution to audiences around the world during ISAR's 22nd commemoration of International Homeless Animals' Day on Saturday, **August 17, 2013**.

ISAR offers free International Homeless Animals' Day packets to all who are interested in coordinating an observance, whether it is a small modest event or a large public gathering.

ISAR's informational materials will assist you in organizing an effective observance with suggestions for site selection, reaching target audiences, speakers, sample press releases, ISAR's proclamations, and much more.

Please contact ISAR by mail, phone, fax or email to receive your International Homeless Animals' Day 2013 packet.

### ISAR's Outdoor Advertising Campaign

Outdoor advertising has consistently proven to be a relatively inexpensive yet powerfully effective means of communicating public service messages to large numbers of motorists and others. Throughout 2012, ISAR's spay/neuter

billboards were seen in locations across the United States including Pennsylvania, California, Louisiana, Delaware and Indiana.

Currently, ISAR offers many spay/neuter billboard designs on our website, [www.isaronline.org](http://www.isaronline.org), to choose from. For several years, ISAR has utilized outdoor advertising to promote our spay/neuter message to thousands. Supporters of ISAR have partnered with us to promote their spay/neuter clinics, animal shelter events, International Homeless Animals' Day Candlelight Vigils, or simply to sponsor our spay/neuter message.

Several years ago ISAR produced and promoted billboard messages in an effort to deny notorious dog fighter Michael Vick economic and other benefits he obtained from his criminal acts. Now, in 2013, ISAR will adapt our latest program, **Stop Devocalization Now**, to our outdoor advertising efforts. Supply ISAR with the name(s), location and contact information of elected officials or others who are working against devocalization, and ISAR will investigate placing a billboard to highlight their efforts.

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Because of the support of countless Americans, ISAR has remained in the forefront of the battle for the rights of animals. Your contributions will allow us to continue our work on behalf of our beloved companion animals.

There are numbers of ways for you to donate to ISAR. *Conventional Donations:* These include checks, money

orders, credit cards and wire transfers. *Online Donations:* Secure donations can be made online at ISAR's website [www.isaronline.org](http://www.isaronline.org). *Monthly Donations:* These can be made by having a credit card automatically charged every month, or by having ISAR send a monthly reminder to those preferring to donate by check. *Matching Donations:* Many companies will match their employees' donations to a registered nonprofit organization such as ISAR dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift. To find out if your company will match gifts, check with your Human Resources Department. *Memorial Donations:* This is a special way to honor the memory of a lost loved one or pet. ISAR is honored to accept donations in memory of a special person or beloved pet. *Last Will and Testament, and Trust Donations:* Provisions for a future donation to ISAR may be made by including the appropriate provision in a Last Will and Testament or Trust.

Whatever form of donation you choose, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to ISAR.

ISAR is most grateful to you, our supporters and friends. You are the most powerful allies the animals have. Without your financial support, we would not have the resources to wage our battles on behalf of animals.

Sincerely,



Susan Dapsis, President

## WANTED: VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR ISAR'S AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF PROGRAM

ISAR has long used the legal system in behalf of animal rights.

The first federal case ever to use the phrase "animal rights" was *Jones v. Butz*, 374 F.Supp. 1284 (SDNY, three-judge court, 1974). ISAR's Chairman, Professor Henry Mark Holzer,<sup>1</sup> on behalf of a wide-range of plaintiffs challenged sections of the federal Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act on the ground that its religious exemption – which effectively nullified the act's protection for countless livestock animals – violated the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The first state case ever to use the phrase "animal rights" was *Jones v. Beame*, 45 N.Y.2d 402 (1978). Professor Holzer on behalf of ISAR's then-president, Helen Jones, and ISAR sued to close the Central Park zoo in

New York City on the ground that the treatment of the animals confined there violated the anti-cruelty statutes of the State of New York.

As long ago as the early 1970's ISAR sued the United States government to stop the slaughter of millions of blackbirds.

In the decades since, Professor Holzer has provided tactical and strategic legal advice to a wide range of animal rights/welfare organizations and their lawyers in cases involving the protection and advancement of animal rights. As of the beginning of January 2013 ISAR has begun offering strategic and tactical advice to a California law firm in connection with its case seeking to reform an animal shelter.

We've filed *amicus curiae* briefs in state and federal

courts, for example:

- *O'Sullivan v. City of San Diego*, 2007 WL 2570783 (2007)—a case that sought to protect the federal recognized seal rookery at Casa Beach in La Jolla, California, from depredation by swimmers and fishermen. Professor Holzer on behalf of ISAR and several other animal protection organizations consulted with the lawyers for the plaintiffs and submitted *amicus curiae* briefs in the California Court of Appeal ([http://www.isaronline.org/la\\_jolla\\_amicus.html](http://www.isaronline.org/la_jolla_amicus.html)) and the Supreme Court of the State of California ([http://www.isaronline.org/seal\\_amicus\\_letter.html](http://www.isaronline.org/seal_amicus_letter.html).)
- *Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah, Florida*, 508 U.S. 520 (1993), in which Professor Holzer on behalf of ISAR and eleven other animal protection organizations filed *amicus curiae* briefs in the Supreme Court of the United States in support of Hialeah's ordinance that prohibited the Santeria cult from sacrificing animals as part of an alleged religious ceremony.
- *United States v. Stevens*, 559 U.S. \_\_\_, 130 S.Ct. 1577 (2010) in which ISAR and Professor Holzer (together with Lance Gotko, Esq. of the New York City law firm Friedman Kaplan Siler & Adelman) filed an *amicus curiae* brief in support of the government's argument that the federal statute criminalizing the making, selling or possessing depictions of "crush videos" and other torture and killing of animals was constitutional.

Increasingly, there are animal-related cases in appellate courts all over the country, involving experimentation, hunting, farming, sport, education, spay/neuter, and more—cases needing *amicus curiae* briefs from a pro-animal perspective.

There's a lot of appellate work for lawyers who would use the legal system in behalf of animal rights. Unfortunately, virtually all of it is *pro bono publico*.

Lawyers interested in volunteering to work with Professor Holzer and ISAR to perform *amicus curiae* appellate services in aid of animal rights are encouraged to contact ISAR via email ([contact@isaronline.org](mailto:contact@isaronline.org)), phone (570-586-2200), fax (570-586-9580) or through the USPS at ISAR, P.O. Box F, Clarks Summit, PA 18411,

and provide us with the following information:

1. Name.
2. Firm name.
3. Office address.
4. Telephone and fax number(s).
5. Email address.
6. Year(s) admitted to practice, and jurisdiction(s).
7. Specialization(s), if any.
8. Post-law school judicial clerkship(s).
9. Judicial experience.
10. Experience with animal-related cases.
11. Amount of time available annually.
12. Whether you and/or your firm has a formal pro bono program.

Although at the initial stages of the *amicus curiae* brief process—issue analysis, research, tactics and strategy—Professor Holzer will be involved and will be named on the brief with volunteer counsel, the work product will be entirely theirs. (It will be the responsibility of volunteers to obtain permission to file the brief, and to file it. ISAR will pay printing and filing costs.)

Thank you.

[Please forward this request to any lawyer(s) who might be interested in participating].

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<sup>1</sup>In *The Birth of Animal Rights Law: The Role of Lawyers in the Animal Rights/Protection Movement from 1972-1987*, Joyce Tischler, Esq., founder and president of Animal Legal Defense Fund, set out to "explore the roots of a large scale, organized movement, which started in the early 1970s in the United States, spearheaded by attorneys and law students with the express purpose of filing lawsuits to protect animals and establish the concept of their legal rights, regardless of the species of the animals or the ownership interest of humans."

In that article, Ms. Tischler graciously names as "the first animal rights lawyer" ISAR's Chairman, Henry Mark Holzer, professor emeritus at Brooklyn Law School.

She credits Professor Holzer, then a practicing attorney professionally associated with ISAR, with three accomplishments crucial to establishing the field of what today is known as "animal rights law": (1) With ISAR, having brought the first federal and first state lawsuit to invoke the moral concept of "animal rights"; (2) With ISAR, having founded the *Animal Rights Law Reporter*, which became "the legal clearinghouse for animal rights law information"; and, (3) Again with ISAR, having organized the "First National Conference on Animal Rights Law"—an undertaking, in Ms. Tischler's words, "[t]he significance of which cannot be overstated."