

Eastern Shore Sanctuary & Education Center

2004 Activity Report

Summary

In 2004, the Eastern Shore Sanctuary & Education Center continued to fulfill its goals, which range from the rescue of local chickens to the global advancement of awareness of the connections between the exploitation of animals, the destruction of the ecosystems, and violence among people.

Bird Rescue

The Eastern Shore Sanctuary provides a permanent home for about 200 birds, including hens and roosters of the "broiler" variety exploited by the local poultry industry, hens who have survived or escaped egg factories, birds confiscated from cockfighting operations, and roosters of all varieties. Joining the chickens are about a dozen ducks, one turkey, and several barn cats.

At an average rate of about one bird per week, local citizens find and bring to the sanctuary birds who have fled from the "chicken catchers" or jumped from transport trucks, ending up lost but free on the roadside. At least once each month, we get the call to take in a rooster who has been turned down by all other sanctuaries. In addition to this everyday influx of chickens, we take in groups of birds as the need arises and we are able. We did so many times in 2004, as follows.

February

24 roosters arrived from Alabama on an icy morning. First bred for purposes of cockfighting and then abandoned without food for weeks, these birds were rescued thanks to Alabama animal advocate Kit King and the legal team at PETA. Several hens from the same rescue moved in with us later in the year.

18 hens and roosters who had been used and abused as "breeders" for the local poultry industry retired to live out their lives at the sanctuary.

May

30 egg factory survivors who had been living at another sanctuary moved in with us.

July

A group of **about 20** local "broiler" chickens who had managed to evade capture by the "chicken catchers" found their way to sanctuary with us.

November

We welcomed **more than 30** former "broiler breeder" hens and roosters. Many of the hens were blind or lame and some of the roosters had plastic "nose bones" fused to their beaks.

December

25 young hens who were scheduled to be moved into battery cages at an egg factory moved in with us instead.

Local Coalition Activities

March

The Eastern Shore Sanctuary worked with the local Environmental Student Association to put on a "Meat-Out" event. Participants collected meat-out pledges and then celebrated at a vegan potluck.

October

The Eastern Shore Sanctuary worked with United Poultry Concerns to mark World Farmed Animals Day by distributing leaflets on the University of Maryland campus.

November

In concert with the Environmental Student Association, we sponsored a showing of *Peaceable Kingdom* at Salisbury University. Prior to the public event, we held a series of private screenings for local scholars and community leaders in the fields of social justice, agriculture, and environmental science. This process led to a number of positive outcomes. We have initiated or strengthened several working relationships and have even convinced a "Poultry Science" instructor to show the film to her classes.

Educational Events

April

Animal Liberation Student Association Conference — Eastern Shore Sanctuary cofounder Pattrice Jones gave two talks: "From Kiss-Ins to Direct Action" and "Feminist Imperatives and Animal Liberation."

June

What We Can Learn from the Birds — a talk by Pattrice Jones at the EarthSave "Taste of Health" event in New York City.

July

AR2004 National Conference — Pattrice Jones appeared on five panels: Commonality of Oppression, Engaging Public Interest, Diet Campaigns, Forging Coalitions, and Global Issues.

August

Deep in the heart of Poultry Country: Depression, Despoliation & Demoralization on the Delmarva Peninsula — a talk by Pattrice Jones at the United Poultry Concerns Forum in Norfolk, Virginia.

October

Animal Liberation and Gay Liberation: What's the Connection? — a talk by Eastern Shore Sanctuary cofounder Pattrice Jones sponsored by Animal Rights Advocates of Upstate New York with the assistance of the Rochester Area Vegetarian Society.

Race, Sex, Class... & Species? Reflections on Exploitation and Liberation — a talk by Eastern Shore Sanctuary cofounder Pattrice Jones sponsored by the University of New Orleans Women's Center, office of Multicultural Affairs, and Women's Studies department.

Sexism & Speciesism: What's the Connection? — a talk by Eastern Shore Sanctuary cofounder Pattrice Jones sponsored by the University of New Orleans Women's Center, office of Multicultural Affairs, and Women's Studies department.

Social Construction of Gender and Species — a talk by Eastern Shore Sanctuary cofounder Pattrice Jones sponsored by the University of New Orleans Women's Center, office of Multicultural Affairs, and Women's Studies department.

November

Peaceable Kingdom — a film showing and discussion sponsored by the Eastern Shore Sanctuary and the Environmental Students Association of Salisbury University.

Publications & Publicity

In January, Pattrice Jones' December 2003 interview on the WBAI (NY) radio program *Ecologic* was archived online. The interview included the story of the founding of the Eastern Shore Sanctuary as well as information and theoretical speculation concerning the links between social injustice and animal exploitation.

"Corporate Crimes Against Animals" by Pattrice Jones appeared in the April issue of *Impact Press*, which is a nationally distributed alternative newspaper.

"Insurgent Ideas," Pattrice Jones' account of the Syracuse Animal Liberation Student Association conference, ran on several online alternative newswires in May. While the article expressed Jones' opinions, rather than official positions of the sanctuary, its online publication drove many new visitors to the Eastern Shore Sanctuary website.

Similarly, the May publication of the book *Terrorists or Freedom Fighters? Reflections on the Liberation of Animals*, which contains the chapter "Mothers with Monkeywrenches: Feminist Imperatives and the ALF" by Pattrice Jones, created publicity for the sanctuary.

"Feminist Fusion: The Pattrice Jones Interview" ran in the June and September issues of the Australian magazine *Vegan Voice*. The interview ranged over a number of topics, including battery hens, fighting cocks, the relationship between racism and animal exploitation, methods of forging coalitions with other movements, and the ongoing struggle to address sexism within the animal advocacy movement.

In June, Pattrice Jones appeared on the Canadian radio program *Animal Voices*. The show was recorded and archived on the internet. The hour-long interview first addressed the ways that animal exploitation sets the stage for human rights violations and then moved into practical tips for creating and maintaining coalitions.

In August, Pattrice Jones appeared on the Carolyn Crane morning show on KVMR (CA), talking about activists tactics. While Pattrice had been asked onto the show the basis of an article about the peace movement, the host invited her to talk about animal issues as well and these ended up dominating the hour.

"Can 'Fighting' Roosters Be Rehabilitated?" by Pattrice Jones ran in the Summer issue of United Poultry Concerns' *Poultry Press*.

"Crossing the Avian-Mammalian Divide" by Pattrice Jones ran in the November/December issue of Satya Magazine.

"Re-Membering Thanksgiving" by Pattrice Jones was published online by the Press Action webzine, the InfoShop newswire, and various Indymedia websites. Reader responses were positive and the article drove many visitors to the Eastern Shore Sanctuary website.

Other Activities

- Following the release of the shocking "Pilgrims Pride" footage of chickens being abused at a poultry processing plant, PETA asked us to contribute a "letter to the editor." We provided a letter that talked about several of the chickens here at the sanctuary as examples of chickens as individuals with personalities and feelings. The letter was published by several newspapers around the country.
- At least once each month, Miriam or Pattrice Jones wrote a "letter to the editor" to a newspaper here or elsewhere. The letters were published in various newspapers, including the Baltimore Sun and the Washington Post, and ranged over a number of topics including humane education, environmental impacts of factory farming, and the "farm animal" exhibit at the National Zoo.
- In the course of its efforts to halt an annual "chicken roping" contest in Texas, PETA asked us to view and provide expert commentary on a videotape of the contest from a previous year. We did provide the testimony and the contest was stopped.
- The Eastern Shore Sanctuary website continued to thrive, offering site visitors a truly unique blend of information and perspectives.