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JCAS Volume VIII, Issue 1/2, 2010

EDITORIAL BOARD1

EDITORIAL.....4

ESSAYS

"Green" Eggs and Ham? The Myth of Sustainable Meat and the Danger of the Local
Vasile Stănescu Error! Bookmark not defined.

My Pet Needs Philosophy: Ambiguity, Capabilities and the Welfare of Domestic Dogs
Heather Hillsburg Error! Bookmark not defined.

**From Marginal Cases to Linked Oppressions: Reframing the Conflict between the
Autistic Pride and Animal Rights Movements**
Daniel Salomon..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

EXTENDED ESSAYS

The Love Whose Name Cannot be Spoken: Queering the Human-Animal Bond
Carmen Dell'Aversano Error! Bookmark not defined.

**Animal Absolutes: Liberation Sociology's Missing Links
Part II of II essays on animals and normative sociology**
David Szybel Error! Bookmark not defined.

COMMENTARY

Abolition a Multi-Tactical Movement Strategy
Anthony J. Nocella, II Error! Bookmark not defined.

Healing Our Cuts
Anthony J Nocella II Error! Bookmark not defined.

PROTEST SUMMARY

! For the abolition of the bullfight, the people took the streets ;
Center of Abolitionist Studies for Animal Liberation Error! Bookmark not defined.

INTERVIEWS

Interview with Anthony J. Nocella, II on Academic Repression: Reflections from the Academic Industrial Complex (co-edited with Steven Best and Peter McLaren, AK Press, 2010)

Richard J White..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

Interview with animal liberation activist and former political prisoner Peter Young

Laura Shields Error! Bookmark not defined.

Interview with author, anarchist and feminist Abbey Willis

Laura Shields Error! Bookmark not defined.

CONFERENCES

9th Annual Conference for Critical Animal Studies, SUNY Cortland, New York

Sarat Colling..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

1st Annual European Conference for Critical Animal Studies, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

Jessica Groling Error! Bookmark not defined.

BOOK REVIEWS

Animal Encounters

Reviewed by Amy L. Fletcher..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look At The Modern Poultry Industry

Reviewed by Dylan Ravenfox..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

FILM REVIEWS

The Cove (2009)

Reviewed by Laura Shields Error! Bookmark not defined.

Disgrace (2008)

Reviewed by Jacqueline Dalziell Error! Bookmark not defined.

AUTHOR GUIDELINES Error! Bookmark not defined.

EDITORIAL

The raison d'être of the Journal for Critical Animal Studies is to promote, encourage, support and enable the publication of high quality research and writing that clearly develops the dynamic field of critical animal studies. To do this more effectively the Journal has always actively sought new ways of making itself ever more accessible, relevant and influential across a diverse range of academic, activist, policy making, and public communities. For this reason you will see several major changes in this Issue that we have introduced in order to encourage an expansive critical focus on issues, events and discussions, many of which take place *beyond the academy*.

The familiar face of JCAS, with an emphasis on promoting scholarly peer-reviewed articles, book and film reviews is still firmly in place. The opening **Essay**, "*Green Eggs and Ham? The Myth of Sustainable Meat and the Danger of the Local*" by Vasile Stănescu developed out of a paper that Vasile presented at the Critical Animal Studies Conference and the Minding Animal Conference in Australia last year. At the Minding Animal Conference the paper won the award for the best graduate student paper. The essay confidentially identifies and lays bare the faulty reasoning that underpins the increasingly popular locavore movement, and makes explicit the need for truly progressive causes to seriously consider the intersections of speciesism, gender, race, class and citizenship on the national and global level.

Focusing on the complex relationships that exist between human "owners" and companion animals, *My Pet Needs Philosophy: Ambiguity, Capabilities and the Welfare of Domestic Dogs* tackles several problematic philosophical questions that surround issues of (non-human) free will and the satisfying of individual preferences. Skilfully harnessing a discussion around Martha Nussbaum's ethics of capabilities and Simone de Beauvoir's conception of morality, Heather Hillsberg concludes by suggesting a constructive range of practical outcomes for dog "owners" in particular to consider, not least the need to explicitly engage in a more expansive dialogical ethic of care.

Daniel Solomon's *From Marginal Cases to Linked Oppressions: Reframing the Conflict between the Autistic Pride and Animal Rights Movement* explores some of the key tensions that exist between the autistic pride movement and the animal rights movement. One of the central barriers occurs through the uncritical and popular use of the 'argument from marginal cases', which Daniel takes time to unpack and critique in this essay. In recognising the way in which marginal cases in its current use marginalises people, the essay concludes by focusing on the need to harness more inclusive and empowered strategies between those groups involved in fighting for animal rights.

The Journal also includes two excellent **Extended Essays**. The first *The Love Whose Name Cannot be Spoken: Queering the Human-Animal Bond*, by Carmen Dell'Aversano is unashamedly ambitious and uncompromising in both content and outlook and represents the very best and most progressive aspects of contemporary critical animal studies. Beginning with a convincing critique of language and the way language acts as common tool of oppression for both humans and other animals, Carmen juxtaposes the radical fields of queer and animal rights in a convincing and persuasive manner. This highly original approach leads to a rich and complex range of insights and arguments that frames animal rights from a range of queer perspectives. In the conclusion the paper reflects on the role of love: love that, intrinsically, is simultaneously a queer and revolutionary force. The extended essay is superbly written from start to finish, and I believe that it will make tremendous impact on future approaches to this under-researched intersection. Once again the key arguments given in this extended essay serve to expose the naivety or wilful ignorance of those who continue to subscribe to the false believe that human rights and animal rights operate in two mutually exclusive and separate spheres.

Animal Absolutes: Liberation Sociology's Missing Links, Part II of II essays on animals and normative sociology is an exceptionally well crafted and meticulously argued contribution to the critical animal studies literature. In Part II, David Sztybel critically discusses the question of positive normative sociology, and skilfully develops a persuasive case that normative ethics, and contrary to popular opinion, can indeed be "scientific". This rigorous discussion draws on a characteristically wide range of disciplines and ideas, explicitly orientating its discussion through a series of

themes ranging from 'The Sense of Moral Absolutism', 'Liberation Sociology', and 'Anti-Intuitionism' before building an extensive case for the absolutist moral theory of best caring. As David points out, the need to establish a Liberation Sociology is far removed from being a purely academic, indulgent exercise. Rather such a project makes a central and fundamental commitment to responding to the global crises that harbour enormously destructive implications for humans, other animals and the environment. Ultimately, as David argues, liberation studies needs to help ethics and not domineering exploitative profiteers to “carry the day”,

Beyond the essays and extended essays, the issue expands to embrace new unchartered territories. As highlighted in the opening paragraph, the inclusion of explicit sections dedicated to 'Commentary', 'Protest Summaries', 'Interviews' and 'Conferences' is intended to make the Journal more relevant to grassroots animal activists, and other social movements, and in doing so challenge the expectations of "the Journal" to be the domain of academic 'ivory-tower' thinkers. Encouragingly, the responses that followed the invitation to submit material for these 'new' areas has been extremely strong, and have brought to the foreground a range of exciting and inspiring areas that invite further reflection and critical discussion.

The **Commentary** features two timely and important articles by Anthony J Nocella II, namely *Abolition as a Multi-Tactical Movement Strategy*, and *Healing our Cuts*, in which Anthony focuses on the causes of conflict within social-based movements, and how to transform conflict into positive and constructive outcomes. The **Protest Summary**, provided by the Center of Abolitionist Studies for Animal Liberation focuses on the anti-bullfighting demonstrations held in Bogota Colombia in February 2010. The demonstrations are inspiring on so many levels, not least as they explicitly highlight the very real merits and virtues of actively making direct positive and inclusive links with other social struggles; links which can serve to both politicise the animal rights movements and "veganize" the political agenda of those who struggle against capitalism and imperialism.

The **Interviews** start with a conversation between Anthony J. Nocella II and myself, in which we discuss the recently released book: *Academic Repression: Reflections from the Academic Industrial Complex*. This is then followed by two excellent

interviews by Laura Shields, first with animal activist Peter Young, and second with the anarchist activist and feminist Abbey Willis. Both interviewees are invited to share their thoughts and reactions to the highly controversial "pieing" of author Lierre Keith at the 2010 San Francisco Anarchist BookFair.

April 2010 was an important month for the Institute for Critical Animal Studies with two prestigious, international ICAS conferences taking place in the USA and the UK. The first of these excellent conferences, the *9th Annual CAS Conference* was held on April 10th At SUNY Cortland, New York. An insight into the many successes of the conference is found in the **Conference** section, and written by Sarat Colling. The second conference, which took place at the University of Liverpool on 23 April was a landmark occasion for many reasons, and not least as it was the first CAS conference to be held in Europe. Jessica Groling has provided an informative commentary on the programme and contributions that the conference harnessed.

The conclusion to this issue brings the reader back to familiar JCAS territory - the Book and Film Reviews. In the **Book Reviews** Amy L. Fletcher favourably reviews *Animal Encounters* as does Dylan Ravenfox in his review of *Prisioned Chickens, Posioned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry* by Karen Davis. The issue is completed by two **Film Reviews**. The first of these focuses on the award winning documentary-film, "*The Cove*" and is reviewed by Laura Shield. The second review, undertaken by Jacqueline Dalziell focuses on the 2008 film "*Disgrace*", which is based on the highly influential 1999 Booker Prize work of the same name by J.M. Coetzee.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Dr. Richard J White
Editor-in-Chief