

Fall 2015

“We need to  
be the  
change we  
wish to see in  
the world.”

*Mahatma Gandhi*



## Leghold Law Under Attack

*By Susan Russell, Wildlife Policy Director*

Excerpt from the *Star-Ledger* editorial, “Keep those inhumane leghold traps illegal in NJ,” June 12:

*The fur industry has tried to circumvent this statute for 30 years, and it's trying again – with the full support of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council (FGC) and New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), which places the Christie Administration on some tenuous legal and moral ground.*

*... Sen. Raymond Lesniak (D-Union) has drafted a concurrent resolution to block the DFW, one that claims the use of these traps are not consistent with the language and intent of the Legislature all those years ago. He's right... The Attorney General may rubber stamp this bizarre capitulation to 276 guys in beaver caps who think their cage traps are too cumbersome and inefficient to collect their raccoon and opossum pelts...*

As we in New Jersey learned in 1985, protecting wildlife from gruesome traps should, but doesn't, end with the passage of a duly enacted law. The state wildlife agency, partnered with the trapping industry, brazenly tries to override the statute. In 1985, the Kean Administration stopped such a move in its tracks; in 2015, Governor Christie, aligned

## Member Spotlight

How does a busy woman, raising a family, with a full-time job and then some, still find time for animal advocacy work in the form of vegan nutrition? Learn how APLNJ member Sue Pearl turned her gym membership into a way to spread the word about plant-based eating.

**APL: We are pleased that you have been a member as far back as 1999 – when we were NJ Animal Rights Alliance (NJARA). Tell us a little about what issues brought you to us and how you found us.**

I became vegetarian around 1995 but was not aware about veganism until I met a vegan coworker, Susan Gordon, who had been a member of NJARA for years. She talked to me about veganism and took me to different area restaurants and shops to sample vegan products.

I always loved animals, hence why I went vegetarian, and I joined NJARA to help NJ animals and learn more about advocacy.

During this time period, I met my future husband, who loved to eat animals. I began teaching him about animal rights and would read excerpts out loud from different books and pamphlets. He went vegetarian in 2000 and I went vegan around the same time with him following soon

**CLICK TO DONATE**

*Support our work!*

*APLNJ is a community based, nonprofit, educational organization, working toward a peaceful, nonviolent coexistence with our earthly companions, both human and nonhuman. Through our programs of promoting responsible science, ethical consumerism, and environmentalism, we advocate change that greatly enhances the quality of life for animals and people, and protects the earth.*

Angi Metler  
 Executive Director

Janine Motta  
 Programs Director

*APLNJ is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization recognized by the IRS. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.  
 ID Number 22-2849700*

**How can I do anything? I'm just one person!**

Seeing all of the community cats “out there” can be so overwhelming that it is easy for many to give up trying to help before they even get started! APLNJ might not be able to be your knight or dame in shining armor and come and take care of everything for you, but we CAN be there to support you, guide you and connect you with the resources you need so you don't feel incapacitated at the thought of stepping up to do something to help.



It is easy to feel hopeless and alone. So please, remember APLNJ when you see cats outside and want to take that first step to do something for them. Let us help you network to find others to work with.

Here are some ideas for connecting with others and finding help in your communities!

- Start by joining our feral friends yahoo group! (<http://tinyurl.com/FeralGroup>)
- Learn whether there are any TNR groups in your area by checking our

website, ProjectTNR.com. If there are, connect with them

- If you seem to be on your own, here are some ideas for ready-made helpers!

If you need help with cat food donations, fundraising or adoption

events, or even shelter making, try asking a girl scout or boy scout troop in your area if they'd like to work on a pet badge and help out! Same idea with other community groups such as rotary clubs, church youth groups, etc.

Our Project TNR Director engaged one scout troop in a cat food drive and adoption event and with another troop, she arranged for them to tour a low cost spay/ neuter clinic to learn all about community cats and TNR as a solution. All of these activities help them earn animal and pet badges and can engage them (and hopefully the adults in their lives) further in being an active part of community cat care.

- Put a display up in your local library (we can provide the materials) and include contact information so others can contact you if they'd like to help!

*(JUST ONE... continued on page 6)*

**Edward Everett Hale (1822 – 1909)**  
 American author; Unitarian clergyman

**I am only one,  
 But still I am one.  
 I cannot do everything,  
 But still I can do something;  
 And because I cannot do everything,  
 I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.**

## Building Momentum for Bears and Continuing the Fight

Public support for the black bear has not diminished; it is as strong as ever. At the Sussex County Fair, over 2,000 people visited the BEAR booth and signed our new petition. They applauded the BEAR Program's ongoing efforts to protect bears.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) efforts to belittle Bear Smart programs *required* in other areas of the U.S. and Canada, and to instead instill fear of black bears, are not believed by the general public, especially those who live with bears on a daily basis. Yet this year, hunters will stalk black bears with bows, indefensibly cruel weapons, and even closer – onto the property of many who do not want the bears pursued, maimed, and killed.

It's critical for APLNJ to continue building momentum for the post-Governor Christie future. The results of the 2015 public comment period will enable us to influence legislators and the future governor, and bring renewed hope. Thank you to everyone who worked toward educating friends, neighbors and colleagues about the



2015 public comment period.

Our ultimate goal to protect bears permanently rests in our ability to persist during difficult times. It's not easy to be optimistic when an intractable Governor placates hunters and the New Jersey Fish and Game Council (FGC) ignores the public comments. Yet we have persisted and continue to work year round for bears.

We all desire permanent protection now and understand only too well how difficult it is to sustain a protracted campaign.

But if we all do our part for bears, and do not let up, another Governor will stop the hunt.

That's where outreach is so important. Through our educational tabling, we are undermining the opposition. The killing – whether the victim is Cecil or a black bear – has to stop. Please join us at upcoming tabling events.

### Know the Enemy

- The FGC is an 11-member board, three members of council are farmers; six members are hunters, recommended by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs; one member is the Chairman of the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee and one member represents the public. They are not environmental experts. They produce and promote the game code, vote for the killing of dozens of species, and work at the behest of hunters.
- The DFW's director is appointed by the FGC. David Chanda, current director, is a hunter. A conflict of interest?
- Before he was elected, Chris Christie promised a bear hunt to a hunting, trapping, and fishing PAC. As Governor-elect, Christie appointed the head of this PAC, Anthony Mauro, a self-advertised



trophy hunter, to his DEP-wildlife transition team. Please visit: [tinyurl.com/AnthonyMauro](http://tinyurl.com/AnthonyMauro) and [tinyurl.com/AnthonyMauro2](http://tinyurl.com/AnthonyMauro2)

### 2015 Comprehensive Black Bear Management Plan Comment Period

The public comment period ran from May 18 through July 17 with a reported total of 10,142 comments received. On August 11, FGC voted unanimously to adopt the highly controversial plan. As usual, FGC figures do not make sense. Four percent supported the entire policy and a whopping 65 percent *opposed* the entire policy; 31 percent were unaccounted for. A copy of the report is available at [savejnbears.com](http://savejnbears.com). The comment summary can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/CommentPeriod>

APLNJ immediately asked New Jersey Department of Environmental (NJ-DEP) Commissioner Robert Martin for oversight of the council's vote and to not sign off on a flawed

(MOMENTUM... continued on page 4)

## Gotten then Forgotten

Earlier this year, APLNJ received a call from an individual who saw an injured duck. We contacted a member who is a waterfowl expert. She agreed to take both the injured duck and her mate and bring them to a veterinarian.

These little ones are two Pekin ducks, likely Easter gifts or from a school hatching project, who were found “wandering around the neighborhood”—released by someone who no longer had interest in them. Judging from the bite marks, this duck was probably attacked by a predator—a local dog, raccoon, or fox. It’s amazing she survived.

Both were brought to APLNJ’s office and immediately picked up and transported to a local avian veterinary office for. The vet worked wonders with the injured duck. She can now eat (although her bill will never be whole) and she and her mate are living together—safe.

Domestic ducks and geese cannot fly. When abandoned they are killed by predators, hit by cars, or starve. It is extremely cruel, yet it happens all the time. Share this info to educate others about the realities of “released” ducks.



(MOMENTUM... continued from page 3)  
policy. Martin told the press he was going to add his signature to the policy — the second time he condemns bears and panders to trophy hunters.

### Action

It’s important for legislators to know how the bear hunt affects you. Urge them to support S687, Bear Smart Legislation. Tell them it’s time to overhaul the DFW and FGC. Ask legislators to introduce legislation that bans the hunt, that restores New Jersey’s non-hunting bear policy. APLNJ frequently testifies at legislative hearings in Trenton. It’s important for our members to support our testimony with calls, e-mails, and local meetings. Supporting our efforts goes a long way.

**Tabling opportunities** (email Angi at [ametler@savenjbears.com](mailto:ametler@savenjbears.com) to help)  
9/26 - Kinnelon Twp Day (rain date: 9/27), 12 - 5pm  
9/26 - ECCR 50th Annual Country Fair, 10am - 4:30pm (rain date: 10/3)  
10/10 - Autumn Lights Festival, West Milford, 10am - 5pm

(JUST ONE...continued from page 2)

- put a notice up at local vet offices asking if others notice community cats and want to do something to manage the situation. We can provide flyers if you like.
- offer a service, and people will find you! If you can fit a few traps in your car, maybe you can offer to drive cats to a clinic once a month and have people contact you to arrange transport – then hopefully find others who can alternate driving with you.

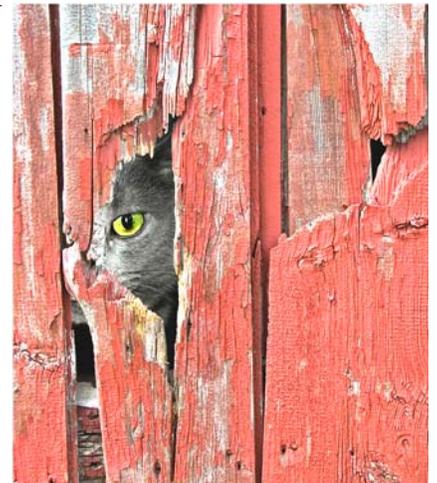
Or perhaps you can offer a free spay or neuter in exchange for someone driving cats to a clinic for you? You can advertise locally and also on Craigslist or Facebook. Naturally take every precaution when giving your contact information or information about the cats to anyone you don’t yet know. Contact us if you need suggestions on how to do this safely.

Feel free to reach out to us anytime for help brainstorming solutions for any obstacles you face in managing community cats in your neighborhood!

Don’t feed or see any community cats in your neighborhood but still want to help?

- ~ Consider making a tax deductible donation to our [Sponsor Our Spays](#) fund which helps pay vetting for community cats.
- ~ Offer food donations to your local TNR group. Ask them if they need your saved newspapers.
- ~ Can you sew? Offer to make trap covers.

And, whenever you are feeling overwhelmed, remember the Starfish story – even if you can help only one cat, you have made a world of difference to that one cat.



# SAVE THE DATE

*le creuset*  
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 2015

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\*Ticket price includes one game of regular bingo for \$5 and games 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 for \$20. Must be 18 or older to play.

For more information, contact APLNJ at 732-446-6808 ext. 101 or info@aplnj.org



## RIDE FOR THE ANIMALS

ALLAIRE STATE PARK 2015

**We've brought back the Ride for the Animals!** Come join our highly successful and fun Ride for the Animals. Celebrate Halloween early! Come dressed as your favorite animal!

The bike path is the [Edgar Felix Memorial Bikeway](#), also described [here](#), starting in Allaire State Park and ending in Manasquan. Bike the entire path (14 miles) or just do a few miles. You will go through beautiful wooded areas, past a golf course, a farm, residential areas and a pond and meadow. This is not a race; ride at your own pace.

Don't have a bike? Don't worry. You can do a 1 mile walk, even with your dog. This is a safe, family friendly event. The path is paved the entire way.

**\$25** until 9/17, **\$5** Children under 15  
**\$35** 9/18 up to day of event, **\$5** Children under 15  
Just want to walk? **\$10** registration any time. T-shirts to riders 15 years of age and up who register by 9/17.

For more info, visit [THE RIDE](#).

### Forget Pocketbook and Longaberger Bingo.

LE CREUSET IS THE LATEST! If you know Le Creuset you love it! If you're not familiar with this high quality cookware and bakeware, check them out at [lecreuset.com](http://lecreuset.com).

Mark your calendar. Call (732-446-6808 x:101) or check out our website ([www.aplnj.org/bingo](http://www.aplnj.org/bingo)) for more details as time goes on.

This is our first time holding this type of fundraiser. Help us make it a success!

### Bringing it to the Streets

In the spring, APLNJ took our Pay-Per-View booth to many street fairs. We paid people \$1.00 to view a 4-minute version of "Farm to Fridge," which expose the horrors that farmed animals live every day. Some cry, some cringe, others look at it, stunned. For many it is life-changing.

**Have you had that life-changing moment yet?** If not, google "Farm to Fridge." The only way to show that you truly care about farmed animals is to not eat them. Not to work for bigger cages or "better" slaughtering. Not to say "that's terrible," but then be complicit in their unimaginable suffering. **Please, don't wait another day.**



(SPOTLIGHT... continued from page 1)

afterwards. NJARA provided us with much needed support and resources during this time to help make the transition from vegetarian to vegan.

**APL: At a recent outreach table you let us know of your involvement in a fitness program. What prompted that?**

I heard about this new fitness program opening last September near my house which combined nutrition and exercise classes. I had already lost 70 pounds on my own through healthy vegan eating and exercise but felt I needed more. I spoke to the owner of the gym who was completely clueless about veganism but was supportive and confident that vegan nutrition could be incorporated into their nutritional plan.

Unfortunately, upon starting, I discovered that their definition of accommodating vegan nutrition was to write "eat tofu" on the bottom of 1 page. I addressed this by designing my own vegan plan and have gained so much from this experience.

**APL: How did you incorporate activism into your own fitness program?**

I started posting my meals that I was eating while on the program last fall on their private Facebook page. The more I posted, the more inquiries I received such as, "What is tofu exactly?" and "I miss cheese, what can I substitute?" I would answer questions and post products that I vouched for such as Dr. Cow raw cashew nut cheese.

Around Christmas, I had a member contact me to ask if she could buy food from me that follows the gym's nutritional guidelines though adapted to my vegan ethics. I have no background in cooking or catering and informed her that I'm a licensed social worker who cooks for her vegan family of 6 daily. The member didn't care and was very pleased with the order. Many other non vegans began ordering and I had a small side business going before I knew it!

In the spring, I was approached by the owner of one of the franchises asking if I would present a seminar about veganism while following the gym's nutrition plan. I spoke for 90 minutes to about 25 members who sampled vegan food at the end, bought food and took informational handouts which were kindly donated by APLNJ.

Nearly a year later, I continue to educate members. Owners of the gym franchises who have vegetarian or vegan members regularly refer them to me for advice.



Sue educating people on veganism at our Monmouth County SPCA Dog walk outreach table

**APL: In case any APLNJ members are interested in having you cook for them (that sounds appealing!) tell us a little bit about what you cook.**

I don't use any oil in my cooking except coconut oil in some desserts, not because I am anti-fat, but because, for me, I prefer to consume my daily fats in the form of nut butters, nuts, seeds and avocado. I use a lot of beans and vegetables in my food and everything is gluten free.

Some examples of my most popular items are: fat free spicy chimichurri hummus, chickpea broccoli patties, cauliflower nuggets, tofu vegetable muffins and tofu vegetable cauliflower rice.

My most popular dessert is definitely chocolate peanut butter cups made with coconut oil, cocoa powder, vanilla extract, liquid stevia and peanut butter. My favorite aspect of my cooking is that I eat everything I sell. If it isn't good enough for me and my family, it's not good enough for people looking to eat healthy, vegan food.

**APL: Can our members get in touch with you if they are looking to make a change?** Absolutely. Anyone can put in a friend request on my Facebook page which is Virtual Vera.

(LEGHOLD... continued from page 1)

with political trapping interests, is allowing it.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Game Council have authorized illegal leghold type traps to traps for raccoon and opossum in the 2015 Game Code. The regulation contravenes N.J.S.A. 23:4-22.1 et seq. (the Act).

### The Law

Enacted by the Legislature in 1984, the Act prohibits the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, possession, importation or transportation of any “animal trap of the steel-jaw leghold type” and “types.” In the words of Irwin Kimmelman, the Attorney General of New Jersey during the Kean Administration, the ban is “absolute,” “unambiguous,” and applies to “technical modifications.” The sole exemption is for “mouse or rat traps designed for use in or under buildings” (N.J.S.A. 23:4-22.4). The 2015 Game Code creates an exemption for a steel-jaw leghold type animal trap in a statute in which the Legislature allowed none.

### The Illegal Traps

The so-called “enclosed foothold traps” regulated in the 2015 Game Code are leghold traps housed in metal or plastic casing, with an access hole through which the raccoon or opossum, domestic cat, or certain “non-target” wildlife, can push, pull, or touch the trigger.

Under the casing or housing, the business end of the device is a type of leghold trap prohibited by the State of New Jersey. When the animal triggers the device, a steel jaw “coacts” with the steel aperture to “form a pair of jaws” for clamping the limb in a vise-like grip.

With violent force of up to 60

pounds, the coil-spring leghold trap slams shut on the foot or leg to inflict excruciating pain, injury, anxiety and fear, exposure to the elements, and attack by predators.

The traps restrain the live animal for prolonged periods of time until “dispatched” by the trapper. Common methods of killing are bludgeoning, stomping on the vital organs, or standing on a catch pole, which causes slow strangulation.



Quite obviously, the proposed leghold traps are the identical method of trapping, function the identical way, and inflict the same types of injuries and suffering that horrified the public and legislators in 1984. Fractures, amputations, abrasions to the membrane covering the bones, self-biting or chewing, skeletal muscle degeneration, tooth damage, edema, and contusions are among the injuries reported. Rather than reduce the pain, the proposed traps are designed to prevent the animal from doing anything to free him or herself, however pitifully, from an intolerable situation.

The Legislature’s generic prohibition of leghold type animal traps – a ban demonstrably not restricted to types then “currently in use” – was litigated in the Superior Court of New Jersey, *South Jersey Fur Farmers v. New Jersey Fish and Game Council*, Docket No. L-72029-85 E (On Appeal: Docket No. A-1247-

86TB) and was tried from June 3 to June 14, 1986. The Superior Court held that the Act “banned all jawed leghold traps.”

APLNJ is protecting the law on two fronts. We need your help on both.

### Legislation

Major national and state humane and conservation organizations have made opposing the unlawful regulation a priority. As noted by the *Star-Ledger*, Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-20) has introduced a concurrent resolution, SCR 175, which declares the regulation inconsistent with the plain language and intent of the 1984 law. The resolution will enable the Legislature to protect the statute and its authority, and ultimately veto the rogue regulation. The concurrent resolution must be approved by the Senate and the Assembly—quickly.

A host of organizations, led by APLNJ, including the Animal Welfare Institute, the Humane Society of the United States, Born Free USA, the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club, and many state and local animal welfare organizations are united in supporting SCR 175. Contact your Senator and two Assembly members and ask for their support of SCR 175.

### ACTION

To locate your legislators, go to: [tinyurl.com/FINDNJLEG](http://tinyurl.com/FINDNJLEG) On the right side, click on Municipality. Locate your town and click on it, then click on the legislative district. Your Senator and two Assembly members’ contact information will pop up.

If you have any problems or questions, write to us at [info@apl nj.org](mailto:info@apl nj.org).

(LEGHOLD... continued on page 8)



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*(LOGGING... continued from page 7)*

### Court

Represented by attorney Dante DiPirro, who served as advisor to a (former) Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and who prosecuted and litigated on behalf of the State of New Jersey as a deputy attorney general and assistant state environmental prosecutor, APLNJ, the Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free USA and Unexpected Wildlife Refuge (at print, more to be added) are challenging the regulation in court.

Please help APLNJ fund this effort by

contributing to our Leghold Legal Fund, here. You can donate online by visiting our website at: [aplnj.org/donate.php](http://aplnj.org/donate.php). You can also send a check to APLNJ, PO Box 174, Englishtown, NJ 07726. Please write Leghold Legal Fund in the memo.

Defending this duly enacted law, and the millions of animals who have been spared, at least, the agony of leghold traps for thirty years is a priority.

Please contact your legislators, and if you can, contribute to our legal fund. Both are equally important.



**You say you love animals,  
But why not ALL animals?**

**why Love some  
but EAT others?**

