

City Beat

Exchanging cruelty for kindness



Two 2-week-old gray foxes snuggle together in fur donated by The Humane Society of the United States. Nearly 2,000 furs were donated last year to Buffalo Exchange, a recycled clothing store, during the Coats for Critters campaign by The HSUS.

Courtesy THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Local clothing shop donates used fur coats to provide comfort for orphaned animals

by Brett Marlow
Assistant A&E Editor

ORPHANED AND injured wildlife in Illinois and around the country are sleeping better, thanks to a local recycled clothing shop and The Humane Society for the United States' Coats for Critters campaign.

Buffalo Exchange, a clothing shop that prides itself of being environmentally conscious by selling used clothing, has two locations in the Chicago area; one in Lakeview, 2875 N. Broadway St. and one in Wicker Park, 1478 N. Milwaukee Ave. Buffalo Exchange stores across the country have teamed up with The HSUS for a national campaign called Coats for Critters. The stores collect real fur clothing like coats, shawls and hats for local licensed wildlife rehabilitation centers.

The used furs gathered from the Chicago Buffalo Exchange locations will be sent to a wildlife rehabilitator in Watson, Ill., who will use the furs to comfort orphaned and injured wildlife and nurse them back to health, said Andrea Cimino, campaign manager for The HSUS' Wildlife Department.

The campaign aims to help wildlife rehabilitators and to bring public awareness to the cruelty behind fur.

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Riders rally for improved mass transit



Transit Riders Alliance demands lawmakers fix RTA funding problems

by Susheela Bhat
Contributing Writer

IN FOUR simple words, Brian Imus, state director of the Illinois Public Research Group, summed up how many Chicagoans feel about the crisis in public transportation.

"We have had enough."

Imus came to support the Transit Riders Alliance, a grassroots, nonprofit organization, advocating improved and expanded mass transit. The Transit Riders Alliance rallied in the James R. Thompson Center Plaza, 100 W. Randolph St., on Nov. 5, demanding Illinois lawmakers step up and provide the



Jim Watkins, a CTA customer, stands at the rally for improved mass transit at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., on Nov. 5. Watkins opposes building publicly-owned casinos to fix RTA budget problems.

Courtesy SUSHEELA BHAT

necessary legislature to deal with unsolved Chicagoland transit problems.

Other local advocacy groups joined the Transit Riders Alliance to show their support. Among the groups present were the

Illinois Public Interest Research Group, an advocacy group for a sustainable economy and a responsible government; and Citizens

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Calendar

Tuesday, Nov. 13

Check out poet and translator Peter Cole discuss his new book, *The Dream of a Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain 950-1492*, a collection of 400 translated medieval Hebrew poems. The event is \$8 and begins at 6:30 p.m. at the School of the Art Institute Ballroom, 112 S. Michigan Ave.

For more information, visit NextBook.org/LocalPrograms/Chicago.html.

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Are you socially conscious? Head over to ChicagoNonProfit.org's first social networking event at the Sears Tower's Metropolitan Club, 233 S. Wacker Drive, on the 67th floor. The event runs from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and includes drink specials and complimentary appetizers. There is no cover charge to attend.

For more information, visit ChicagoNonProfit.org. To RSVP, e-mail Randal_Dill@yahoo.com.

Thursday, Nov. 15

Like technology? TECH Cocktail is hosting its annual get-together at John Barleycorn, 3524 N. Clark St. The events bring technology buffs, bloggers and entrepreneurs together for a night of socializing. The event is free. It runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information and to RSVP, visit Tech-Cocktail-Chicago-6.Eventbrite.com.

Friday, Nov. 16

Watch *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, part of the midnight movie series at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. The 1987 classic stars Steve Martin as a stranded traveler who gets stuck in Kansas with a silly man portrayed by John Candy. Tickets are \$9.25.

For more information, call (773) 871-6604 or visit MusicBoxTheatre.com.

Saturday, Nov. 17

Have a dog? The Lakeshore Athletic Club at Illinois Center, 211 N. Stetson Ave., is offering "Paws and Flow," a free yoga class for dogs and dog owners at noon. The class focuses on 45 minutes of stretching and flexibility for both participants. Space is limited, so call (312) 616-9000 x280 to register.

For more information, visit LSAC.com.

» FURS:

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Orphaned animals can learn survival skills by playing with used furs

Cimino said people who might not feel comfortable wearing fur could donate to the program, which would help the wild animals.

"If we can get more people to stop wearing their fur and people put it to a good use, the less people wearing fur, the better, in our opinion," Cimino said.

When wildlife rehabilitators receive the furs, they cut the furs into the bedding depending on the size of the animals' enclosure used at their center, Cimino said. The donated furs are used as bedding so the animals can snuggle with them. Cimino said the furs reduce stress and soothes the orphaned animals, almost acting as a surrogate mother.

"When [orphaned animals] come in, they're usually high-stressed because their mother has been killed," Cimino said. The fur sort of comforts them and helps them to calm down."

The ongoing campaign partnered up with Buffalo Exchange in 2006 after a HSUS member mentioned the program to an employee of one of Buffalo Exchange's stores, Cimino said.

The donations and collections started Nov. 1 at Buffalo Exchanges across the country and runs until Earth Day, April 22. Since the program wrapped up last year, Buffalo Exchange has collected nearly 2,000 used furs, said Michelle Livingston, marketing director for Buffalo Exchange. Cimino said most of the animals that receive the furs are rabbits, squirrels, foxes

and raccoons that have been orphaned.

Livingston said customers who specifically come in to donate coats should mention it's for the Coats for Critters campaign. The used furs are a straight donation and their condition doesn't matter.

Ryan Hurling, a college campaign coordinator for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said he likes that people are donating the coats to a cause instead of throwing them away.

"Often times we've found that especially when you donate a lot of these things to wildlife rehabilitation centers and areas where animals are in dire need of assistance, [the animals] can often find a lot of comfort in these warm furs to sleep on and rest on," Hurling said.

Valerie Chalcraft, who holds a doctorate in experimental psychology, also runs an animal behaviorist consulting firm, Applied Animal Behavior, 731 W. 18th. St. She said putting furs in with orphaned animals isn't unusual. Chalcraft said she has observed this with dogs or cats who have been taken away from their mothers.

"What we'll do is, we'll take a hot water bottle and wrap it in a towel, or in this case, a fur coat could work," Chalcraft said. "We'll use a wind up alarm clock that makes a ticking sound and that emulates the heartbeat. So between the heat of the hot water bottle and the ticking of the clock, which is like the heartbeat, and the fur, it could closely approximate a mother."

She said the furs provide warmth and for animals that might be nursing. Fur is a better material for animals to dig their paws and claws into rather than a hard surface, a typical behavior baby animals do to their mother's stomachs.

Chalcraft said one way to teach orphaned animals skills is to teach them how to play, and according to Cimino, some of the rehabilitating animals do just that with



Two raccoons nestle in a donated fur coat. Furs can be used for bedding to comfort orphaned animals or made into toys that teach the animals hunting skills.

Courtesy THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

the furs.

"If the fur coats are used for toys to emulate play, it's going to help the orphans develop hunting skills," Chalcraft said. "So if they're reintroduced in the wild, they'll have some hunting skills."

Cimino said most people donate because they either have inherited a coat from a relative or purchased the coat a while ago before learning about cruelties behind the furring process.

"It really appeals to people because they recognize the animals have suffered and die for this object, and so they want to give it back to a purpose that will help animals," Cimino said. "It does a little bit of justice. It could never make up for the cruelty, but with this cause, I think it does give people a sense of closure."

PETA has been collecting furs since its inception in 1980. Since 2001, it has collected and received more than 10,000 fur donations that the organization uses for its anti-fur demonstrations, educational purposes and, like the campaign with Buffalo Exchange, donations to homeless shelters and wildlife centers, Hurling said.

Cimino said since The HSUS had such a successful run with the campaign with Buffalo Exchange locations throughout the nation last year, they decided to do it again this year.

For more information on the Coats for Critters campaign, visit BuffaloExchange.com or HSUS.org.

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» AURORA:

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Aurora does not have the authority to pass an ordinance, experts say

out-of-state minors are traveling to Illinois to receive abortions to avoid their own state laws.

Eric Scheidler, communications director for Pro-Life Action League, said he has noticed cars with license plates from Indiana and Wisconsin in the parking lot at abortion clinics and has seen young girls arrive and leave in these cars.

"Illinois has become the abortion capital of the Midwest," Scheidler said.

While there is no statistical evidence to prove that minors travel from neighboring states to Illinois to terminate a pregnancy, studies conducted in the past show a greater migration of minors.

After Massachusetts passed a parental consent law in 1981 requiring unmarried women under age 18 to receive parental or judicial consent before having an abortion, doctors Virginia Cartoof and Lorraine Klerman examined interstate travel by minors. Their study, published in 1986, revealed that within 20 months after the Massachusetts consent law took effect, more than 1,800 minors traveled to bordering states that had no parental consent laws.

Illinois is not required to abide by other states' parental notification laws. However, Missouri passed a law in September 2005 that allows people to take legal action against anyone who helps a minor terminate a pregnancy outside of Missouri without parental or judicial consent, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

Lorie Chaiten, director of the Reproductive Rights Project for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, said Aurora does not have the authority to pass an ordinance because the state of Illinois regulates the practice of medicine. The ordinance violates the Illinois Constitution, she said.

While Lawrence said the ordinance seeks to protect minors from any medical procedure, Bonnie Grabenhofer, president of Illinois National Organization for Women, said parental notification laws puts minors at risk.

"The parental notification laws do not work," Grabenhofer said.

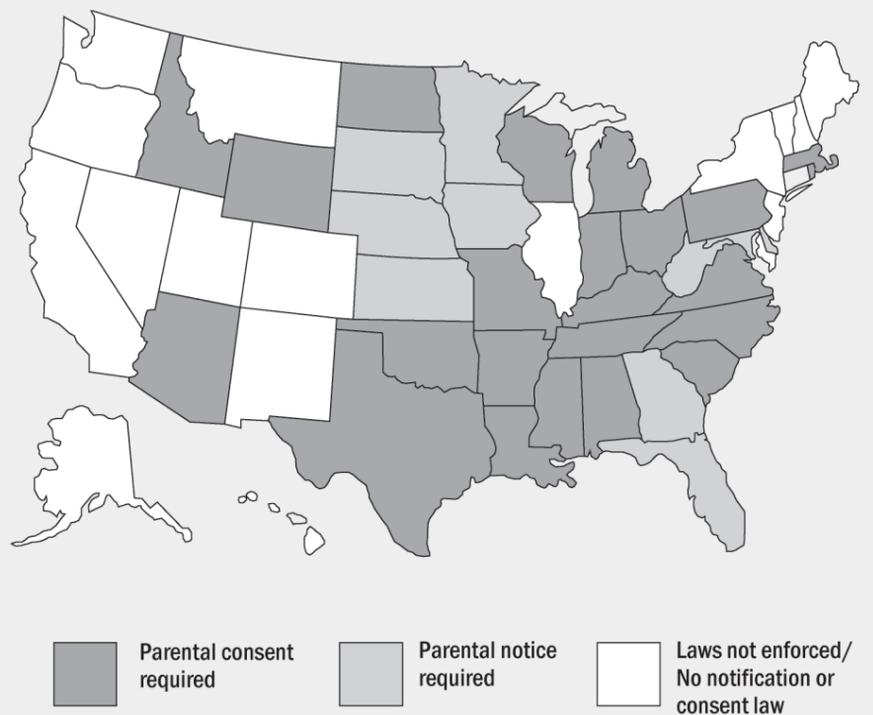
She said in medical procedures such as abortions, the ordinance would prompt minors to delay their abortions into the second-trimester, self-abort or cause them to travel out of state.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, parental notification laws delay and obstruct the access of pregnant adolescents to timely professional advice and medical care.

Other medical associations, such as the American Medical Association and American Academy for Pediatrics, have issued statements opposing parental consent and notification laws because of the potential danger of a child not receiving medical care.

Lawrence said the only exception to the parental notification for medical procedures ordinance would be in the case of a medical emergency where a parent could be contacted after the child received appropriate medical care. He opposes the judicial bypass system, where a minor could go to court and ask to not have the parents notified, because it's not instituted across the board, as in the case for arrests or bad grades in school. However, he said judicial bypass may have to be instituted

ABORTION REQUIREMENTS FOR MINORS



Kimi Badger THE CHRONICLE

to allow for the law to pass.

Bobby Stringini, a senior fiction writing major, said parental consent and notification laws are an invasion of privacy.

"It's still a medical procedure, so it's privileged between doctor and patient, even if they're a minor," he said.

Stringini said there are some parents who don't believe in going to doctors for ailments, so the child still needs to have the ability to get medical care if the minor knows it's in their best interests. How-

ever, in the case of abortions for minors under age 13, he said the parents should be notified.

Robyn Ziegler, press secretary for the office of Attorney General Lisa Madigan, said Madigan is in favor of the 1995 Parental Notification Act and filed a motion to implement the law. It is currently under consideration in the courts.

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