

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Pet Fair: best way to treat animals

The 6th annual Pottstown Pet Fair is scheduled to begin 9 a.m. Saturday at Memorial Park.

Last year, 5,000 people attended, many with their pet dogs, cats, and assorted other lovable animals.

According to the sponsors, features will include a Blessing of the Animals, rabies vaccination clinic, canine agility demonstrations, dog licensing clinic, presentations on butterfly and bird gardens, animal and veterinary care, canine law enforcement, and animal adoptions

But as we're enjoying our pets at the Pet Fair, we might ask ourselves:

Do we really want to eat animals?

Americans eat on average 8 ounces of meat daily. To do this, we grow and kill 10 billion animals a year (yes, that's billions with a "b").

There are many reasons we should consider reducing our meat consumption, not all of them obvious.

The first one is animal cruelty. All animals are sentient creatures. They experience fear, they feel pain, and many live very short lives in brutal

confinement.

Another one is efficiency. We use two to five times as much grain to feed animals that we then kill and eat than to obtain the same amount of calories from simply eating the grain ourselves. (Avoiding the middle man — or middle animal.)

Vegetarians are healthier, especially compared to red meat eaters.

Animals raised in factory farms are constantly injected with antibiotics, which leads to antibiotic-resistant bacteria that threaten human health.

Few know that growing animals to eat is one of the major generators of greenhouse gases — mainly because of all the methane produced by animal manure (one steer produces about 15 tons of manure annually), but also because of the tropical rainforests cut down to provide crop and grazing land to feed animals.

My wife and I evolved into vegetarians shortly after we were married in 1970. We didn't find meat very appetizing. Since then, we've learned there are plenty of other, very good reasons to avoid meat.



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

### Animals as pets



### Animals as food

