



Photos courtesy of the Western University SCAVAR.

Western University veterinary student Zarah Hedge with Oscar, one of the residents of the Animal Acres Farm Sanctuary.

Veterinary Students Making a Difference AVAR Student Chapter at Western University Active in Community Events

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It's been an exciting and fun first year as the president of the Student Chapter of AVAR (SCAVAR) at Western University of Health Sciences. Our club is driven by members who are motivated and committed to doing whatever they can to improve the lives of animals. Our goal is to gain exposure through participation in a variety of events. Some of these events included fundraising and participating in the Spooktacular Pet Walk at the Helen Woodward Animal Center, a donation to the Humane Alliance of Western North Carolina for their spay/neuter trip to Costa Rica, handing out free Thanksgiving vegan samples at the schoolwide Thanksgiving lunch, volunteering at Animal Acres sanctuary for farmed animals in Los Angeles, and helping run an arts and crafts table at Santa's Workshop held at Western University for local foster children.

We have some great ideas for events this semester, as well. In April, around Easter, we are planning on playing on the rabbit theme to have a non-animal tested free cosmetic makeover day to inform people of the cruelty-free brands available to them. We also are planning screenings of "Peaceable Kingdom" and, "The Witness" as well as arranging discussions that touch on subjects such as alternative farming techniques, what organic really means, and how to make animal-friendly choices while shopping. We are constantly coming up with ideas and reevaluating them to try and reach out to as many people as possible. Our very talented treasurer, James Ransom, has put together a great Web site that is frequently updated with club news and current events. Please check it out at <http://ws.westernu.edu/cvm/avar/main.html>. We are always looking for new ideas and opportunities, so please don't hesitate to contact us via the Web site.



The SCAVAR at Western University hosted a vegan Thanksgiving meal for the campus community.