

Interview with Leah Comerford, artist and editor for The Abolitionist



Corey Wrenn, Roanoke Vegan Examiner
November 7, 2011 - Like this? [Subscribe to get instant updates.](#)

Add a comment

Your ad here | Advertisement

Tweet

Email

Print



Leah Comerford, artist and editor for The Abolitionist
Credits: Leah Comerford

In celebration of [World Vegan Month](#), I will be hosting a collection of interviews with vegan abolitionists from across the globe. I'm excited to have this opportunity to showcase vegan activists and give a face to our beautiful movement. Be sure to check back for regular installments throughout the month of November.

Today's featured vegan abolitionist is Leah Comerford of Fredericksburg, Virginia. Leah is an [artist](#) and an editor for [The Abolitionist](#).

Leah, tell us a little about yourself...

I'm a new, old vegan, having discovered this cause 18 months ago at age 61. My art involves drawing gentle creatures (some human, most non-human), and over the past 12 years I found myself becoming more uncomfortable about eating animals. But I didn't think I could stop; I thought I was destined to be a meat eater and my lame excuses always won the day. Then I read *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy* by Matthew Scully. That woke me up and I became a vegetarian immediately. "Veganism" was a vague concept for me, so I read *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Vegan Living* by Beverly Lynn Bennett. By the time I finished that volume, I was ready to become vegan. The following year and a half has been about reading and learning about previously unfamiliar concepts ([abolitionist approach](#), [welfarist](#), [new welfarist](#)) and trying to convince my friends and family that I haven't gone 'round the bend. Beyond approaching the topic every chance I get, my advocacy is still in its infancy. To do something for the cause, I help edit an online UK magazine ([The Abolitionist](#)) and look forward to the day when I feel competent to speak intelligently to groups about justice for other animals.

Related Topics

- [World Vegan Day](#)
- [vegan](#)
- [abolition](#)

Location: Fredericksburg, Virginia

Advertisement

Offer of the day




Hour-Long On-Location Photo Shoot With Image CD

You've been strutting down the street posing for...

[More info](#) | \$99.00 | 51% off

Food Buzz

 Spice things up this year with Becherovka herbal liqueur. [Not the typical taste](#)

More in Food & Drink

- [Holiday recipes](#)
- [Discover kabocha squash](#)
- [Veganism beyond the tofu](#)
- [SoCal with a Hawaiian twist](#)

Comfort food makeover: [S'mac and cheese](#)

Recent Activity


You turned off the ability to use Facebook platform In order to see your friends' recent activity, you need to turn it back on.



No recent activity to display.



Put some like buttons on your website to engage your users. Details can be found [here](#).

 Facebook social plugin

[Join Examiner.com on Facebook](#)

Corey Wrenn's Preferred Links

- [The Abolitionist Approach](#)
- [Vegan Freak: Being Vegan in a Non-Vegan World](#)
- [On Human-Nonhuman Relations](#)
- [NZ Vegan Podcast](#)
- [Vegan Essentials](#)
- [Pangea Vegan Products](#)
- [National Vegan Examiner](#)
- [Unpopular Vegan Essays](#)

What do you think should be the focus of the non-human animal rights movement?

Justice and respect for all living beings is the ideal focus. Regardless of how various factions approach the problem, if we stand steady with a message of all beings' rights not to be owned or used—no exceptions, no excuses—we'll at least be on the ethical high road.

What are some of the biggest obstacles to reaching our goals?

Humanity has not yet reached the point of valuing an individual life. Many of us barely value our own lives, let alone the lives of those in other families, cities and countries. So how are we to learn to value the life of a cow or chicken or cricket? It's possible that people will learn to value other animals *before* we extend the same respect to our own species, and that doing the one will lead to the other. (One can dream, can't one?!)

What are your other interests and activities?

I love making art and reading novels with happy endings. The study of human nature has been a life-long pursuit, and there's certainly plenty of that to be had while advocating for other animals.

Suggested by the author:

- › [It's World Vegan Day...so where are the vegans?](#)
- › [Interview with Jordan Wyatt of INVSOC and Coexisting with Nonhuman Animals](#)
- › [Interview with Heidi Woodruff, abolitionist activist](#)
- › [Interview with Rob Johnson of VEGAN: UK](#)
- › [Interview with Alan O'Reilly, abolitionist activist](#)

Ads by Google 

[Vegan](#)

[Vegan and B12](#)

[Animal Rights](#)

[Raw Foodist](#)

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Report](#)



By **Corey Wrenn**
Roanoke Vegan Examiner

Corey Wrenn is a doctoral candidate in sociology currently researching the vegan movement. She is an abolitionist vegan

 [Get my newsletter](#)

 [Get my RSS feed](#)

 [Become an Examiner](#)

[Read full bio](#) and is adviser to a...

Comments

Test-drive the
100% electric Nissan LEAF™

Limited test drives available.



Drive Electric Tour
Soldier Field August 26-28

RSVP ▶



Twitter

Follow Us

Food & Drink | © 2006-2011 Clarity Digital Group LLC d/b/a Examiner.com.



Thanks! RT @wasabixgurl:
@examinercom happy thanksgiving
to you too!
56 minutes ago

RT @camcath: Life is...joy and
sorrow: be thankful for it all
t.co/AR9sT7XL via @examinercom
58 minutes ago

RT @susandusterhoft: Beat the
turkey bulge this holiday season
t.co/z8u8sRN0 via @examinercom
1 hour ago

About Examiner.com



Examiner.com is the inside source for everything local. We are powered by Examiners, the largest pool of passionate contributors in the world.

Examiners provide unique and original content to enhance life in your local city wherever that may be. Examiners come from all walks of life and contribute original content to entertain, inform, and inspire.

- Read more about us
- Write for Examiner

Company Links

- Advertise with us
- Career opportunities
- Examiner.com blog
- Privacy Policy
- RSS Feeds
- Sitemap
- Terms of use
- Today in Photos
- America Inspired

Partner Links

- AEG Worldwide
- Foundation for a Better Life
- NowPublic.com
- Walden Media