

ANIMAL ACTIVISTS

Anti-animal abuse campaign inspires lifestyle changes

Juliana Discher | Staff Writer

Fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

This sentiment against animal cruelty transcends the lives of sophomores Samantha Francis and Emily Davis. Their pledge to go cruelty free determines their daily decisions, from the clothing they wear, to the foods they eat and the products they buy.

According to Francis, her passion for animals was instilled at an early age.

"I grew up on a farm," Francis said. "I lived on a 100-acre plot in Pennsylvania where we had a horse paddock and a sheltered barn. My mom took in foster horses from abusive homes and nursed them back to health. We ended up taking care of stray kittens as well. At one point, we had about 27 cats."

It's a common misconception that vegetarians dislike people who eat meat, Francis said.

"Being a vegetarian doesn't mean that you hate or are completely against people that eat meat," Francis said. "I don't have a problem if people eat meat in front of me. It's just me consuming it that is a concern."

According to Davis, the aspiration of not wanting to harm animals demands extensive research before purchasing makeup or clothing. She said she avoids certain brands.

"I stay away from L'Oréal big time," Davis said. "They are one of the top companies that test on animals. Also, Mac, Mary Kay, Axe, Pantene, Sally Hansen and Suave are awful when it comes to animal cruelty and testing. I stay away from companies that use real animal fur, like Michael Kors and Lulu Lemon."

"If a company wants to test and harm animals, they should test it on themselves and if they won't, then they should work harder to make it safer."

— EMILY DAVIS
SOPHOMORE

Francis said she was motivated to take a stand upon seeing the mistreatment of animals.

"I saw a lot of crazy things that happened to the animals and it really inspired me to want to protect them," Francis said. "Taking care of the stray cats taught me an important life lesson that not all animals will be saved, and saving a few won't change the world. But for the animals you do save, their worlds are changed forever."

Becoming a vegetarian seemed like a logical choice, according to Francis, because she is against the harming of animals.

"I decided to become a vegetarian for moral reasons," Francis said. "I don't think the way our current meat industries treat their animals is humane at all. I know that I'm not making a huge difference in the meat industries by refusing their products, but it's a huge difference to me."

Davis said that she intends on starting a club against animal cruelty at the high school.

"I plan on starting a club with other students who are passionate, once I find a teacher to supervise it," Davis said. "We want to use the club to spread the word about animal cruelty through posters and protests. We also want to volunteer at no-kill shelters, where they don't euthanize any of their animals."

Davis said she finds it unfair that animals don't have a choice in their treatment, which is why she feels people should stand up for them.

"I believe that no animal should be harmed for humans to use their products," Davis said. "If a company wants to test and harm animals, they should test it on themselves and if they won't, then they should work harder to make it safer. Animals have no say or way to defend themselves, so it's completely unfair to them."

MAN WITH A PLAN

Popovich career path realization of childhood dream



Photo by Madison Krell

Senior Garrett Popovich sits behind the wheel of a police cruiser as part of his role with the Madeira Police Department.

Meghan Pottle | Staff Writer

Most little kids want to grow up to be royalty or even superheroes, but not senior Garrett Popovich.

Garrett has known that he wants to go into the workforce to be a firefighter or police officer since he was three years old.

"When I was three years old, I was playing with matchbox cars that were like cop cars," Garrett said. "While everyone else was playing with monster trucks, I was the one playing with the fire and police cars."

Senior Nathan Domeck lived in the same neighborhood as Garrett as a child and according to Domeck, Garrett has always had an interest in police.

"When he was little, he would take his bike and he would put little lights on it," Domeck said. "In the morning, he would go outside and turn on his lights, making cop noises riding down the street with his bike."

Garrett is currently a police explorer in Madeira, which is part of the Learning for Life career education program for teenagers who are 15 through 20 years old. Being a police explorer allows teenagers to experience what the career field is like being a police officer.

"The officers down in Madeira have trained me well, taught me well, and they've definitely showed me that being a police officer is something I want to do in life," Garrett said. "Working with those guys has helped me further my career field and I have

just wanted to be in the job more."

Garrett also has a job as the public safety director at The Beach Waterpark. He handles all the fire inspections, all the public safety inspections, and he meets with the Mason police department and the Mason fire department on a regular basis. He is in charge of having a working relationship with the police and fire department, along with the 911 communication center for Warren County.

According to Garrett's father, Gary Popovich, Garrett is already pretty mature for an 18-year-old.

"Just being around other adults and being comfortable in those kind of environments and settings, I think is good for any kid," Gary said. "It's good that he kind of knows what he wants to do and he has a passion for it. He is still an 18-year-old kid and he has his moments, but the maturity factor is a big one."

After he graduates high school, Garrett plans to attend Cincinnati State to get his fire and EMT license, and get a job at a department either part-time or full-time. When he turns 21 years old, he will go to the police academy to get his state certificate. From there, he will apply and try to get a job somewhere.

"Obviously, my plan of going to college is not 'the norm' where everyone goes to college right after high school," Garrett said. "My plan is to get a job, further my education in whatever career field I choose to be dominant in, whether it's being a police officer or a firefighter."