

## A Tragic Affair

*The following is an article that appeared in the Summer 2008 issue of the GeesePeace St. Louis newsletter. It was written by a citizen of Chesterfield, regarding a geese roundup in her neighborhood earlier that summer. The adult geese were not relocated to continue their existence but taken to an area for processing as a meat product. A fourteen pound goose is processed to take only one pound of breast meat given to a food pantry. The young goslings are released to a conservation area to fend for themselves. Without their parents many will not live to adulthood.*

What had started off to be a beautiful Tuesday morning turned into a stressful day when two USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) trucks pulled up to my place of business in Chesterfield. Early morning, at eight o'clock, I was looking at the lake to see why they were here. Not a feather stirred, nothing. I asked what they were looking for and was ignored. I asked again and was told, "Nothing. We are finished."

They left and I watched as they continued to drive around, stopping at one point to look through binoculars for their prey. I knew they were after the geese. After driving to the back of our development, I followed in my car and asked again what they were doing and again I was ignored. Finally I asked if they were removing geese, and they said they were relocating them to a "NO Hunting" area by Columbia, MO. I did not think they could be relocated and told them my thoughts. I was then treated like I was not aware of the wonderful work they were doing.

After calling GeesePeace, I returned to watch as they trapped and caged the two families of birds for their final trip to their new nicer home!! As we all know it is a LIE. The birds were very stressed and put in crates with other birds, the equipment picked up and were gone in a matter of twenty minutes. How sad that we continue to build lakes (retaining ponds) and green space that encourage geese to land and live here, only to be pitched out because of not understanding their needs.

So sad the babies won't have their parents to raise them and teach them, especially to teach them not to try and live in Chesterfield.