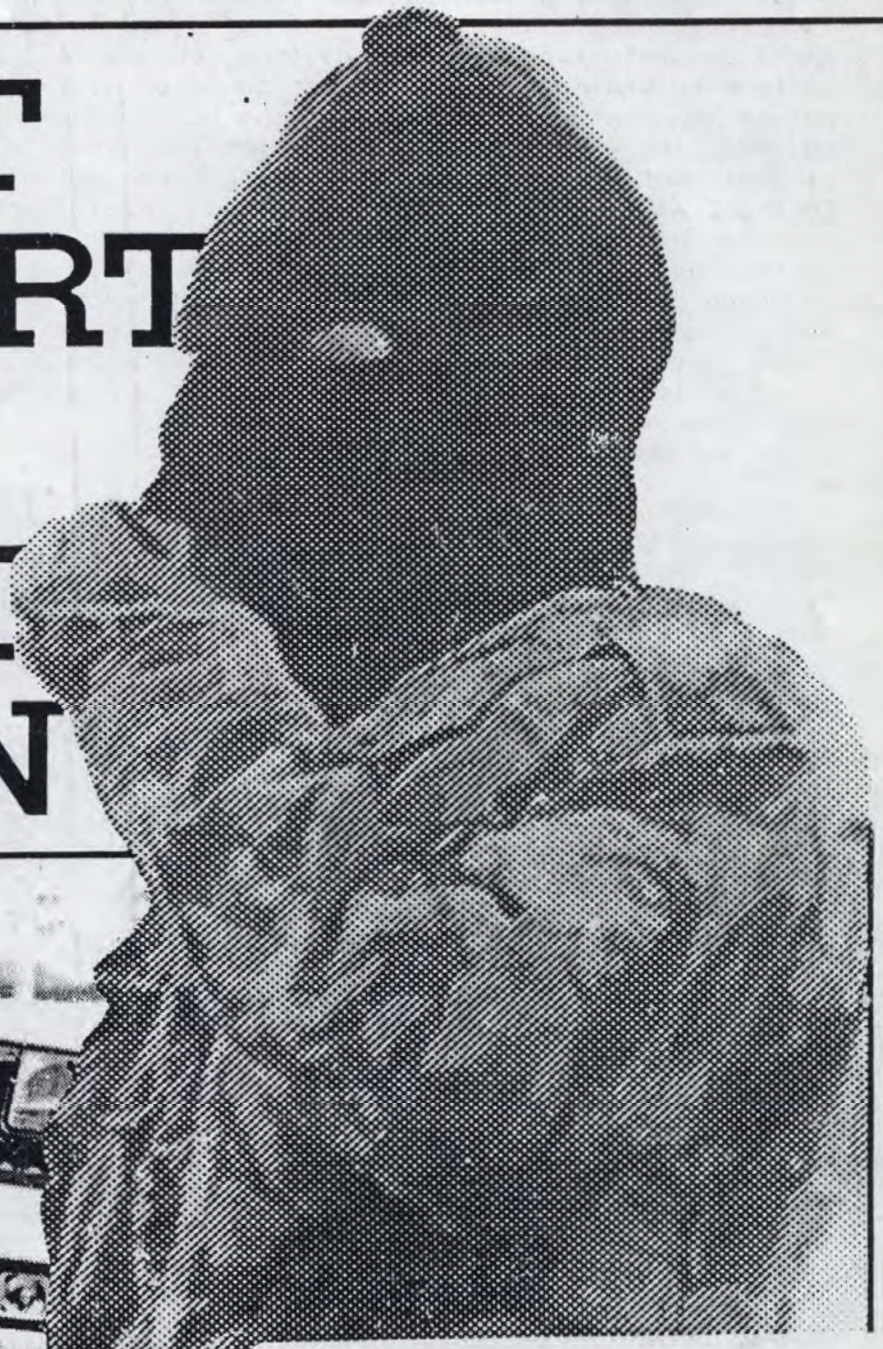
Animal Liberation Front !

THE BEGINNING OF ANIMAL LIBERATION

AND THE END OF ANIMAL ABUSE

DIRECT SUPPORT FOR DIRECT ACTION





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ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT SUPPORTERS GROUP.DIRECT SUPPORT FOR DIRECT ACTION. *ALF-SG*

An interview with a member of the International Animal Liberation Front(U.S.A.)

The activist interviewed is a clerk in a brokerage firm on the east coast of the USA. He has been a member of the IALF for 18 months.

Question. When you came forward to be interviewed, you said you hoped to convey your"ordinariness" . What did you mean by that ?
Activist. I am concerned that people think of the IALF as a group composed of professional criminals. We are not into "crime", we don't rob banks; in fact, we're just like everybody else. Most of us work full-time, some are students, some have families.
Q. Are you saying IALF members lead double lives ? The one ordinary and law-abiding, the other unlawful and a well-kept secret ?.
Act. The idea of a "double life" smacks of intrigue for one, and disjointedness or inconsistency for another. My work with the IALF, although illegal and in that sense separate from my daily routine, remains quite commensurate with the virtues I believe in and make every attempt to live by. I see participating in the IALF's raids not as a momentary forfeiture of the highest human values - goodness, generosity, and the like - but rather an embodiment of them.
If I did not believe that, I would not have joined the IALF. You see I have a lot to lose. At 23, I'm looking ahead to my life; I go to college at night; and I'm planning a career in business. Every time I'm involved in IALF raids, I risk a conviction on felony charges. On the other hand, I certainly do not wish to get caught, or go to jail, or have a criminal record; but risking those difficulties was not enough to keep me from joining a group at the forefront of a growing move toward human awareness and concern for non-human animals. Many people, and more all the time, believe with the IALF that animals must not be needlessly made to suffer. Where violation of this inalienable right occurs,we must protest. The IALF just goes one step further and literally alleviates the suffering when and where it is going on. So, my part in IALF raids actually facilitates a direct connection between my thinking and my behaviour. If I said I believed in animal rights, but did nothing or very little, then I would indeed be living "a double life".
Q. Are you in favour of legal campaigning ?
Act. Absolutely. Without the gradual and sometimes tedious work of acting through legal channels, we would have no hope of a true revolution in attitudes; without a new attitude, the law will retain its abysmal disregard of animals. The humane educators bring atrocities to light, inviting public evaluation and reassessment of the way things have been and are - then and only then is the way opened to change. The life of the humane educator, the person in picket lines, the leafletter, the radio talk-show's guest, the writer of letters-to-the-editor, demands an infinite patience and perseverence I salute and admire...and in many ways I participate in myself.
Q. How do you feel about the fact that the IALF's goals are accomplished by law-breaking ?
Act. Raiding laboratories or any place housing animals subjected to cruelty takes a certain boldness and defiance. By boldness I mean a willingness to give up everything. By defiance, I mean a definitive refusal to allow institutional cruelty its permission to exist and continue.



PETA member Holly Jensen holds Peter, one of 35 injured cats liberated from the Howard University Medical School. One cat was found dead in her cage. Veterinary reports released to us by the ALF showed earmite infestations, infected sutures and ringworm. The USDA and Howard University veterinarians approved these inexcusable conditions. Peter is now in a loving home and has undergone surgery to correct partial paralysis caused by surgery at Howard. (Photo - Courtesy of The Washington Post)

An interview with a member of the International Animal Liberation Front (USA)

(Continued).....If that means having to break the law as it stands now, then unfortunately we will break the law. However, the IALF does not arrogantly break laws for the sake of breaking them. Indeed, we hope that in the future our raids will be unnecessary and obsolete because the law will do what we do now; guard and respect the rights of all animals, not just the human animal. We must break the laws condoning cruelty - laws we want eradicated - because we answer to a Higher Law. The law now permits the suffering of animals at the hands of selfishness, greed and convenience.

We have to break laws that we do not want changed - we trespass, we break and enter, we damage property if we have to, in order to get to the animals. Each person in the IALF must make peace with him- or herself in this matter. The main problem lies in public opinion. Most people probably see us as some sort of strange and dangerous left-wing group, perhaps even as terrorists, because they know only what the media tells them. We cannot afford to come forward and tell our story to the newspapers as I am telling you now; we have to keep our profile as low as possible. I am afraid that even if a comprehensive and sympathetic report on the IALF were aired on nationwide news, factors besides ignorance would work against us.

Q: What do you see standing in the way of Animals having legal rights?

Act: I'm convinced that the three biggest obstacles to Animal Rights are ignorance, apathy and big business. Apathy not only means a "Who cares?" attitude but a "Why should I care?" approach, fostering a continuance of habits and learned prejudices. The idea of animals having rights is still new enough that it is often greeted with a smirking attitude by those who have never considered animals as anything but objects capable of rendering various products. Encouraged to believe animal products make life better, more enjoyable or more convenient, people have learned to value the product and ignore the animal.

Unfortunately, today's businesses stand to lose when consumers make sound, cruelty-free choices. Some multi-million dollar businesses in this country profit by an unthinking public, waiting to have its taste buds stimulated or its bodies fashionably dressed. Effecting changes in attitudes must come first before we can expect any long-term, thorough-going changes towards animals gaining legal rights. But the job of sustaining the slow, incremental steps of humane education bears down with a frustrating enormity. I think most of us in the IALF feel a sense of urgency in partnership with a sense of duty; we can't wait ten or fifteen years for laws to be changed.

Q: Once you joined the IALF, did you have any serious doubts as to whether your decision to join was the right one?

Act: I had mulled over the pros and cons several times before joining; I had made up my mind, so that whether my involvement lasted only a month or two, or much longer, I was doing the right thing. But I had no idea how the sight of the animals we were liberating was going to affect me. The first raid I helped with was a laboratory raid. One of the animals was badly mutilated and had been starved - I was appalled. Any lingering ambivalence evaporated. I'll never forget how the animals stunk of their own urine; they were filthy. We in the IALF look forward to the day when laws will regard the wanton exploitation of animals as the disgrace that it is, but until then we will continue liberating those animals at every opportunity with a grim determination....."

"..Hurt not the Animals...." (Triptolemus A.D 50)

MINK LIBERATION - THE MYTHS AND THE FACTS

From time to time the national and local media carry headlines highlighting the latest in a series of raids on mink farms carried out by members of the Animal Liberation Front or like-minded people. While the ALF is perhaps used to being described by the media as a bunch of hooligans, the actions themselves - especially if animals have been rescued - are quite often sympathetically reported. Mink liberation however, never receives such favour from the media and the reasons for this are the subject of this article.

Unfortunately, the almost hysterical rantings of the media following such a raid are not only believed by the general public, but also increasingly by Animal Rights activists, some of whom are calling for a complete cessation of such attacks. Such a tendency should be resisted simply because the media is quite wrong in its assertions that mink are a threat to wildlife and are a danger to human beings as they would quickly discover if they took the trouble to read just a small percentage of the scientific papers currently available dealing with the issue of mink in Britain.

The facts about mink are that:

(1) They do not attack human beings. On the contrary, like most sane animals they endeavour to avoid contact with people. The only people likely to suffer the rather painful, but otherwise harmless, bite of a mink are careless mink farmers and trappers - I for one have little sympathy for such people and would defend the right of any mink to defend itself against them.

(2) Mink pose little or no threat to domestic animals and farm stock. They certainly do not attack calves, sheep or lambs as some would like us to believe. In some circumstances however, chickens are vulnerable to attack from mink as they are from foxes, badgers, polecats, weasels, dogs and cats. What is often forgotten by farmers however, is that they are responsible by law for the safety of their stock and in most cases losses of chickens to any predator are the result of the farmer's own negligence. Free-range poultry should be locked up at night in secure rat-proofed houses. During the day of course, free-range poultry are vulnerable to attack from any of the many predators that roam our countryside and to single out the mink as being the worst culprit is entirely unjust.

(3) Mink are not a threat to our native wildlife. Only one "scientist", Sir Christopher Lever, vigorously maintains the view that they are and he is a biologist of the old school, having done no field work on mink and relying to a great extent on misrepresenting or distorting the words and findings of those who have. Most biologists in Britain take the view that the mink has adapted well to life in Britain and has merely established itself in a vacant ecological niche which would have been occupied by its slightly smaller cousin, the European mink, had the landbridge between Britain and Europe lasted a few thousand years longer.

Mink have been resident as a breeding species in Britain since before 1956 when they were first recorded as breeding in Devon. If the species was really the nuisance that the media like to say it is, then we would expect to have noticed some change in the wildlife populations and diversity of species in Devon by now; no such changes have been noted except in the case of the otter, which as is well known, has been brought close to extinction in Britain as a result of the use of pesticides in agriculture and hunting for sport. This point of course illustrates the real source of danger to our wildlife; human abuse of the countryside.

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(5)

Considerable store is laid by the anti-mink lobby on the fact that the mink is not a native of this country, that it is a carnivore and that it has no natural predators. It should be remembered, however that the mink is a relative of the stoat, polecat, weasel, pine marten, badger and otter, all of which are native predators with no natural predators and with them the mink shares certain hunting techniques. The fact that the mink is not a native to this country is only important if its hunting methods are unusual to the native wildlife so that their evolved means of defence against predation provide no protection from the new predator. An example would be the dodo, that bird became extinct because its flightless lifestyle left it vulnerable to attack from the alien rats and pigs introduced to its native island by humans.

The mink, however, has no unnatural hunting methods to employ against our wildlife; their evolved defences against the mink's native cousins hold good against the mink. The mink can climb trees but is not as good at this as the pine marten, it can swim but not as well as the otter and on dry land its hunting methods are the same as those of the stoat and weasel. Thus when the mink needs food and goes hunting, its prey will be caught and killed in exactly the same way as if they were hunted by any of the mink's native cousins. The only reason the mink has been able to establish itself is because the animal is able to combine the hunting techniques of several of its relatives and live in areas which would be unsuitable for more specialised predators. Thus mink will establish territories for themselves along small rivers and streams whose fish population would be inadequate to support otters, but by hunting small fish, birds and mammals, mink are able to find enough food to survive.

The mink's ability to exploit a wide range of prey serves a further purpose in that it is unlikely that it will ever hunt a prey species to extinction. What happens here is that the mink hunts only those species that can be found with the least effort. In most cases these are the animals which are the most common in the mink's territory. If the mink's predation begins to have some effect on the prey population, it becomes progressively more difficult to find and kill enough prey to satisfy the predator's needs. The mink's response to this is to seek other prey species. If none are available, the mink's survival chances are obviously lowered and it either has to increase the size of its territory at the expense of neighbouring mink or move on altogether.

A comparison between a number of studies of mink predation in different areas of Britain demonstrates this. In one study of mink living along a fast flowing river in Devon, it was shown that the mink draw on a wide variety of different prey species and that the mink population structure is very fluid, (ie the animals rarely establish a territory for long before moving). This reflects the lack of food along this river. In another study in Scotland it was shown that the mink population is stable and at the time of the study was preying predominantly on eels, yet a further study also conducted in Scotland, showed that in this area coarse fish were the main constituents of the local mink diet. Thus it can be seen that the mink's ability to exploit a wide range of prey species and to adapt its focus from one species to another according to their relative abundance makes it very unlikely for the mink to hunt any prey species into near extinction on either a local or national level.

The release of large numbers of wild and fully experienced mink into a small area would certainly be a cause for some concern and would have a considerable effect on the local wildlife. Even under such circumstances I doubt that the result could be truly described as catastrophic. Once the large numbers of mink had dispersed in search of their own territories the local wildlife would begin to recover. It is a well-known biological fact that animals at the bottom of the food chain are prolific breeders and that given plenty of room (such as would be left following an invasion of mink), their breeding rates and survival prospects would grow allowing rapid re-colonisation.

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(6)

When we talk about ranched mink however, we are not dealing with truly wild and definitely not with experienced mink. The effects of the release of several hundred inexperienced mink will be virtually negligible. The mink may attack a few farmers' poultry, but by the time they have learned to catch wild prey, they will have dispersed in every direction. They will in effect be subject to the same "rules" as their wild cousins. What is important is that the mink are able to escape rapidly as happens when the perimeter fence is cut at the corners so that the animals run along the wire and straight out rather than across the hole as happens if the hole is cut half way along the fence. Rapid escape from the farm has tended to ensure that individual mink come into contact with each other, fight and thus speed up the dispersal process.

Reservations about the release of mink from fur farms should be upheld under certain conditions. Release should never be undertaken during the spring when local wildlife are breeding and their young are especially vulnerable to the kind of haphazard hunting that inexperienced mink are likely to indulge in. Mink should never be released from farms on small islands where there are few or no terrestrial natural predators for such islands are often colonised by sea birds whose nests are very vulnerable to any ground predators. Such islands would not be colonised by these birds if there were ground predators there already.

Finally, while acknowledging that mink liberation is a controversial subject which, thanks to the ignorance of the media, robs the Animal Rights movement of much credibility, it would be a dangerous precedent to allow this to influence the activities of activists; we should instead seek to educate our media when such opportunities arise.

For those who would like to study this issue in greater detail, the Hunt Saboteurs Association has prepared a 40-page information leaflet about mink based on the work of many field biologists. It is obtainable from the HSA at PO Box 19, London SE22 9LR. Please enclose a large sae and £1.00 to cover the cost.

ALF SUPPORTERS - 1

(1) The SG would be very grateful if members would continue to send in newspaper cuttings that mention the Animal Liberation Front and/or direct action. This is particularly important in the case of 'free newspapers' which are difficult to obtain if living outside the area in which they are delivered.

(2) If you can, please distribute ALF leaflets at demonstrations for Animal Rights. These are available from the ALF, BCM Box 1160, London WC1N 3XX.

(3) The ALF Supporters Group postcard is now available. The postcard is high quality and shows four successful ALF actions in 1982. The cards are 10p each or 10 for 75p. They are very useful for fund-raising and if any group wishes to take advantage of this, they are only £6.75 for 100. Please enclose some stamps to help with postage. Thanks.

(4) Back-copies of SG newsletters can be obtained (Numbers 1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,8,9,10 and 11). These cost 30p to reprint, so please send at least 30p to cover this with a 12½p stamp for the postage.

(5) ALF posters (the size of this page) can also be obtained for £1 for 25. The poster is a large picture as shown on the SG members' badge with the words "Support the Animal Liberation Front" below. Many people have found many uses for these.....

(6) Please ALWAYS state your membership number (shown on the address label on the newsletter envelope). This is VERY important and a great deal of time would be saved if members would do this when writing - for whatever reason. If sending in money, please advise what it is for - an order, donation or subscription.

If you are changing your method of payment (from manual to standing order or standing order to manual), please let the SG know. Your membership number will change if this occurs and will be shown on the next newsletter address label. Please advise change of address giving as much notice as possible.

And finally, if you are ordering anything detailed above, it would be of great help if a stamped addressed envelope was enclosed with the order. If you are unsure of the postage, even an unstamped addressed envelope is of value as it will save the SG a great deal of time. Thanks.

(7) You can help by doing one or more of the following:

(a) Get a new member to join the SG by standing order (a form will be supplied on request).

(b) Have a letter printed in a newspaper etc., supporting the ALF and/ or direct action.

(c) Hold a fund-raising event and raise £24 or more for the ALF or ALF (SG).

Please send in the standing order or newspaper cutting or fund-raising money and a special "ALF Supporter - Active Supporter" badge will be sent to you. Please ensure you include your name and membership number.

This is a very valuable way of helping the ALF and everyone should be able to do one of the suggestions above. Please do try to do one. Thanks.

ALF SUPPORTERS - 2

(8) Please remember there is always an urgent need for homes for animals. If you can home any, please advise the ALF stating (a) your name and address, (b) your home and work telephone numbers, (c) the exact types and amount of animals you can home and (d) whether temporary or permanent home - obviously permanent ones are the most needed.

Fully appreciating many SG members do have animals, animals such as guinea pigs, mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils etc., take up virtually no room and cost very little to keep.

If you do home an animal, or for various reasons can no longer home any, please advise the ALF so the record for you can be amended/removed. This is important to avoid time and money being wasted. For security reasons, if you do write and say you cannot home any because you have taken one/some in, please just give your SG membership number only.

Animal rescue can only continue as long as homes exist - please remember that. Finally, there are people who kindly offered good homes perhaps as long as a year ago and still have not been contacted and are no doubt wondering why the ALF is asking for homes and yet their offer has not been taken up. Homing is entirely dependent upon the area, types of animals rescued, the ALF group responsible for the rescue and numerous other factors. So please do not think your kind offer has gone unrecorded or is being ignored. Please discuss the possibility of homing with other members of the Animal Rights group you belong to - the only things the ALF asks is that (a) the home is a good one and (b) any offers are serious and have been thought about.



DAILY MIRROR, Monday, May 14, 1984

Watership let-down

Nobody turns up for Adams

IT REALLY couldn't be described as the most successful outing for RICHARD ADAMS, author of Watership Down.

The Hampshire-based writer, whose acclaimed story of bunny rabbits has made him a most sought-after spokesman on animal welfare matters, was invited last week to speak at the House of Commons.

His address was to have followed a film about vivisection.

The event was arranged by Brighton animal campaigner RENA COLLINS, whose MP, TONY BOWDEN, booked the House's Grand Committee room. Mr Bowden, the Tory member for Brighton Kemptown, is known widely for protesting to the American ambassador about a dancing chicken in a New York juke box.

He posted notices of the Richard Adams talk throughout the Palace of Westminster. And even invited Prince Charles. In the event no one turned up.

Says Miss Collins: "It was awful. There was nobody for Mr Adams to give his talk to. Absolutely nobody.

"Mr Adams spent much of the film with his head on his arms."

In the end, the author returned home to the bunnies in Hampshire with his speech undelivered. About the only person present to hear it was the projectionist.

THE "SUCCESS" OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING ???????

Diary of ALF Actions

(1) Late March 84. ALF blocked locks of Aztec Furs, Whittington Rd, Bounds Green, with filler.
(2) Late March 84. ALF glued lock of Dewhurst, a butchers shop, in the Broadway, Crouch End, North London.
(3) 29/3/84. Alf raided the University of Paris, freeing 50 frogs and 20 pigeons. Photographs of rabbits undergoing experiments were taken.
(4) 31/3/84. A butchers shop in Havant had its lock glued up. A brick was thrown through the window of Newalls butcher shop in Emsworth. A door of a butchers shop in Waterlooville had its lock glued up. All these places are in Hampshire.
(5) End of March. ALF attacked the East of Eden night club in Bournemouth, where lobsters were being kept with their claws tied together and lived in 2 fish tanks. When a diner wanted one, they were taken away and boiled. ALF sprayed the windows with slogans. Lobsters are now off the menu.
(6) End of March. Scarborough Marineland and Amusement Park. ALF painted "used and Abused for fun" and "Animal Belsen" in 2ft letters on the entrance road leading into the park.
(7) Early April. ALF attacked home of guinea pig breeder Mr. M. Grayston. Window was smashed of Little Lions Farm, Ashley Heath, Dorset.
(8) Early April. Farmers planned to exterminate rabbits and badgers in Reading, so ALF visited the wood were farmers had put up signs and daubed them with "ALF". Since then the farmers had stopped their campaign.
(9) 2/4/84. ALF sprayed slogans on a butchers in Prebend St. Islington, North London.
(10) 4/4/84. 5 shops in Edinburgh had their windows smashed by ALF. 2 were butchers, a halal meat and meat trade wholesalers and the Dominion Fur Company.
(11) 8/4/84. Debenhams and Boots the chemist had their windows smashed by ALF in Derby, estimate of damage was over £600. A gun shop had its lock glued, a window smashed and slodans were also painted.
(12) 8/4/84. ALF liberated 1,600 mink from Bednall Hall Mink farm, Staffordshire.
(13) 8/4/84. ALF smashed windows of 4 shops in Edinburgh, all dealing in animal skins. Also a kilt shop displaying seal skin sporrans had its window smashed.
(14) 10/4/84. ALF broke into the University Hosp., Heidelberg, W. Germany and liberated 4 dogs and 37 cats which were to undergo experiments.
(15) 11/4/84. ALF in Nottingham shot a hole in a window of a leather shop, (Lafayette of Pelham St.) Also a window of Debenhams was broken because they sell Sovereign Furs.
(16)13/4/84. A van belonging to farmer Mr. Leslie Charles Christmas which was loaded with eggs, had its locks glued and brake fluid poured over it. The farm is in Westgate Bay Ave. Westgatate, Kent.
(17) 15/4/84. 3 lorries belonging to an Upminster (Essex) abbatoir had electrical wires cut and slogans were painted on the sides of the lorries.
(18) 15/4/84. In Edinburgh ALF attacked 4 butchers, a meat trade suppliers and a fishmongers all had their windows smashed.
(19) Mid-April. ALF in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, destroyed snares and traps that had been lain in a wood.
(20)Mid-April. ALF in Hereford broke windows of Hereford Cattle Market.
(21) " " ALF in Canterbury, Kent, attacked 18 shops connected with animal abuse.
(22) " " A meat lorry belonging to Thanet Meat Company of Ramsgate, Kent, had paint stripper poured on them. Also 12 butchers shops had their locks glued up.
(23) Mid-April. ALF glued up the locks of a butchers in Minster, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.
(24) " " ALF broke the windows of Boots the chemist in Clifton and W. Bridgford.
(25) 18/4/84. ALF in Enfield, N. London, liberated a dog from a man who was known to have blinded a dog and starved a rabbit to death.
(26) 20/4/84. ALF painted slogans on the jumps of Ashford Valley Foxhunt point-to-point, in Charing, Kent, the night before it took place.
(27) 23/4/84. ALF smashed the windows of 2 butchers shops in Hainault Rd. Leytonstone and Francis Rd. Leyton.
(28) 24/4/84. ALF in Nottingham, broke the window of 'Skincraft' a fur shop.
(29) 26/4/84. A pig farm belonging to John Walsh, Winsey House Farm, Rushden, Northampshire., had slogans painted on the sides of the pig houses, in full view of the A6 road.
(30) 27/4/84. ALF activists raided Brookhill Farm, Melling, Merseyside, and rescued 63

Diary of ALF Actions

(cont.) hens. The hens are now in free range conditions.

(31) 28/4/84. ALF raided Colwall kennels of Malvern, Worcestershire. The kennels breed beagles. ALF liberated 8 dogs which were all breeding stock for the kennels. The dogs were worth £5,800. The dogs are now all in good homes.

(32) 28/4/84. ALF blocked up the door lock of Aztec Furs in Whittington Rd., Bounds Green, N. London with hard setting filler.

(33) 30/4/84. ALF smashed the window of a halal meat shop, which murders animals on the premises, the shop is in Radford Rd. Nottingham.

(34) 30/4/84. ALF liberated a dog from the Master of Foxhounds, in Broxbourne, Herefordshire. The dog was being kept in a cage only twice its size. The dog is now in a good home.

(35) Late April. ALF painted slogans on a meat lorry belonging to Gillams the butchers of Cliftonville, Kent.

(36) Late April. ALF painted " Meat Means Murder " on the pavement outside Dewhurst the butchers, in Canterbury, Kent.

(37) 3/5/84. ALF threw a brick through a fishmongers window on Cliftonville, Kent. Also slogans were painted on a butchers shop in Margate.

(38) 4/5/84. 12 shops connected with animal abuse had their locks glued by the ALF.

(39) 6/5/84. ALF rescued 20 broiler chicks from a farm at Calverton, Nottinghamshire, slogans were also daubed on the animal sheds. The chicks are now in free range conditions.

(40) 7/5/84. ALF attacked Fox's fur shop; the window was broken. pavement outside was daubed and the shops signs were paint bombed, damage is estimated at £500-£600.

(41) 8/5/84. ALF sprayed vehicles and buidings with slogans belonging to Lee farms Ltd., of Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire.

(42) 10/5/84. ALF rescued 12 hens from a battery farm in Frampton Cotterell, Bristol, Avon. All the hens are now in free range conditions.

(43) 10/5/84. ALF wrecked a gamekeeper's suppliers in Colney Heath, Herefordshire. Equipment was smashed, the office was upturned and slogans painted. The premises belong to Gilbertson & Page.

(44) 12/5/84. The ALF in Zeist, Holland raided the Technological Research Laboratory and liberated 30 beagles.

(45) 15/5/84. ALF wrecked a lorry belonging to Kerstein Poultry, Monier Rd., Bow, East London, Kerstein Poultry are involed in the ritual slaughter meat trade. Damage was estimated at £12,000.

(46) 16/5/84. ALF painted slogans on the windows and doors of the Biology Dept. at Essex University.

(47) 19/5/84. ALF attacked a battery farm belonging to a Mr. Dowker, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire and set light to an empty broiler pheasant house. The house was completely gutted, and usually houses 20,000 pheasants.

(48) 19/5/84. ALF smashed the windows of a butchers in Chelford, Cheshire, damage was estimated at £300.

(49) 21/5/84. ALF attacked the homes of 2 animal abusers. A Dr. Cliff of Boxley Drive West Bridgford, of the Toxicology Dept. at Boots, who had the locks of his home glued, and Dr. Lewis of Chorlworth Rd. West Bridgford, who is the chief vivisector at Boots, had paint stripper poured over his garage and its locks glued.

(50) 23/5/84. ALF raided Salisbury Labs. Ltd. in Salisbury, Wiltshire, and rescued 12 chickens from cramped cages, which were to undergo experiments. The company has links with Porton Down at the time of the attack, also an adjoining laboratory had several thousands pounds worth of damage was caused to equipment.

(51) 26/5/84. ALF daubed " Animal Murders " on the outside wall of the London Hospital Whitechapel, also a window of the administration building of the laboratory had a window smashed with a brick. The hospital is known to carry out experiments on greyhounds.

(52) 26/5/84. ALF set fire to a lorry belonging to Epping Meat International in Bow East LOndon, they are ritual slaughterers.

((53) 27/5/84. ALF rescued 16 mice from Haileybury College, Hertfordshire, where they were to be used as breeding stock for dissection purposes.

During recent years, many members of the Animal Rights movement have been disappointed at the viewpoints held by the RSPCA and the failure of the Society to deal with important areas of the Animal Rights campaign and the whole Animal Rights issue. Now in 1984, it appears that the RSPCA has been given a new lease of life which can only mean an opportunity of life for many animals - the future looks very promising. Saturday 23 June 1984 saw the following motions carried at the Annual General Meeting of the RSPCA:

(1) "If the Government introduce a Bill based on its White Paper 'Scientific Procedures on Living Animals' (Cmnd 8883 May 1983) that this AGM supports a strong campaign to inform the public and the press that the legislation will permit animals to continue to be used for questionable purposes and that severe or enduring pain will continue to be inflicted on them."

(2) "This Society is totally opposed to the exemptions from humane stunning before slaughter included in the 1974 Slaughterhouses Act. The RSPCA believes that all food animals should be stunned prior to slaughter in order to minimise suffering, and will actively campaign through its Branches and through its national membership to have the law altered to this effect."

(3) "This AGM recognises the public concern surrounding the slaughter of food animals by some religions. While condemning the cruelties of ritual slaughter, this AGM recognises that our own methods of slaughter and the whole process of breeding, rearing and transport of animals for food is also responsible for great suffering to animals. This AGM commends to members of society and particularly to RSPCA Council members and staff, the adoption of a humane diet without the consumption of animal products."

(4) "That the Royalty Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals congratulates the London Borough of Islington on its 'Policy Statement on Animal Welfare and Animal Charter', and applauds its efforts since adopting the Charter to put into practice the Charter's recommendations. That the RSPCA Council urges all RSPCA Branches to lobby their local authorities to adopt comprehensive animal rights policies along the lines of those suggested in Islington's Animal Charter."

The RSPCA has opportunities, facilities, support and money that no other organisation possesses, or is ever likely to have. It enjoys a totally unique place in the Animal Rights movement and society as a whole - there is no plan to "take it over" nor "seize it" but simply a concerted effort to bring it into the 1980's. This can only be good news for the animals.

Through the efforts of several people such as Angela Walder, the RSPCA is fast becoming an organisation that is using its vast resources and influence to improve the situation of animals. When the RSPCA is brought into its full maturity, there will no doubt still be aspects not wholly acceptable to many organisations - including the ALF - but if we can achieve a united fighting force made up of the whole spectrum of the movement, it will not be a long fight. The RSPCA, unlike other organisations, is able to put tremendous pressure on Government and other powerful influential bodies that will ensure a response which is now so obviously not forthcoming. 1984 has not been a good year for the animals - ie the BUAV's behaviour towards the ALF and direct action campaign, but the RSPCA AGM more than compensates for this. It is a fact that the animals are benefitting from the new-look RSPCA and will continue to do so from the work put into their future campaigns. Through the RSPCA, the problems that Government has ignored or left society to deal with (the killing of many unwanted animals, educating the young uncontrolled breeding of animals etc), can be pushed back to Government and will effect the support from it; long overdue and badly needed. As the RSPCA position is so unique, this can be done. Please support those who are trying to ensure this evolves, but be very wary of those in the Animal Rights movement who simply see every organisation as potentially political party orientated. You may feel this is simply not possible with the RSPCA (as it has been with other organisations), but whether this is the case or not, damage will occur and the only ones to feel the full force caused by political careerists are the animals. The campaign to change the RSPCA into a dynamic, modern, radical organisation fighting for Animal Rights has been a long, hard and uphill struggle but important changes have already been made. As long as genuine support is given to this campaign, and those who are leading it, the success already in sight can be made a reality.

We would urge all Supporters Group members to join the RSPCA in order that the Society may have a more radical and progressive membership.

BOOK REVIEW:

"ANIMAL TRAPS & TRAPPING" by James Bateman

First published 1971 - Second impression 1982
Publishers: David Charles (Publishers) Ltd, Brunel House, Newton Abbot, Devon

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In this book there are 80 illustrations and diagrams of animal traps, many of which the budding young sadist could easily construct for himself, buy from gun or fishing tackle shops.

There are simple devices like the "brick deadfall trap" which requires only three house bricks and two pieces of twig. This is good for crushing - or partly crushing - mice and small birds. If you require something more sophisticated and pain-inflicting there is a wide range of gin-type steel traps, with and without teeth. There is also a selection of easily-made snares. Indeed, there is something for almost every kind of creature ranging from mice to giraffes. There are traps for pigeons, dunlins, magpies, crows and rooks. Satan himself could not have produced and illustrated a better book than this, whose author was once a South African vivisector and who "was also recently responsible for the mounting of a large exhibition of animal traps at the National Museum of Wales".

It seems you can make an animal trap out of just about anything if you have the mind to: sharpened wood-stakes, rope, glue, wire, sharp steel-spikes.

In strange contrast to all this is a chapter on "The Ethics of Trapping" which strains itself to justify trapping and asks the reader to support the RSPB and the RSPCA, which of course speaks volumes for the author's belief in the efficacy of these organisations.

A touching little sub-chapter in the introduction, entitled "Traps and Research" justifies trapping for research by saying that animals become trap-prone and having "once tasted bait laid in traps, cannot keep away from them".

The book had cost £7.95 when it was bought by the library in 1982, since when, according to the date stamp, it had been read eight times.

In a busy city library this book would have been taken out more frequently, and I have found city library hunting and shooting books go out about once a week on average, so there appears to be a fairly enthusiastic readership for cruelty.

In contrast, there are very few books which put the humane viewpoint forward, and books like Mike Huskisson's "Outfoxed" or Peter Singer's "Animal Liberation" are rarely to be found on library shelves, and will not appear there unless you make a special point of requesting them from the librarian.

If you are not a regular reader, why not pay a visit to your local library or bookshop and see what they've got? You can put leaflets or leave messages in appropriate books. If you think that a book is likely to lead to animal suffering, take it home for safe-keeping on the fire or the compost heap. Dump it in the canal if you like, but don't poison the wildlife or pollute the canal banks.

Reviewing library books is a good pastime for older members of the ALF who find it a bit difficult climbing over laboratory fences, or for busy housewives who can pop into the library when they're out shopping. Why not try it?

(Many thanks to SG members 193/193A for the above review)