Bite Back

BITING BACK AGAINST ANIMAL ABUSE

Issue 2
May/June 1999



PUPPY FARMING - THE REALITY OF THE PET TRADE

Government-funded vivisection-
We investigate the Medical Research Council

Plus - News, Campaign Updates and much more

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NEWS

COLGATE TO HALT ANIMAL TESTS



Colgate-Palmolive Co. has declared an immediate moratorium on using animals for testing the safety of its personal care products. The moratorium covers a wide range of products designed for adults, including deodorants, shampoos, shaving cream and men's and women's fragrances. Colgate said in a statement that 98 percent of all internal requests for product safety approval are currently met using available data and non-animal alternatives. Continued consultation with industry and scientific groups led to additional opportunities to reduce animal testing, the company said. ``We feel that our moratorium on animal testing of adult personal care products is a positive step forward, consistent with our overriding responsibility to consumer and employee safety," Colgate said.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals lauded the move, saying it was the result of 20 months of discussions with the New York-based company. ``This is a banner day for animals in laboratories, a big step forward for which we applaud Colgate," said PETA President Ingrid Newkirk.

TURKEY FARM CRUELTY



Hundreds of newborn chicks were found in dustbins at a turkey farm after an employee forgot to lethally gas 2,000 eggs.
Witham magistrates heard that some of the eggs dumped in a skip later hatched and the chicks were found alive among the rubbish by dustbin men the next morning.
James Osbourne, 59, assistant battery manager at Kelly Turkeys of Springacre Farm, Danbury, Essex, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to animals.
The court heard that the RSPCA took the difficult decision to put down the baby chicks because they were already dying from exposure when they were found.
Osbourne, of Catherine Close, East Hanningfield, Essex, was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £500 costs by magistrates.

News in Brief...

McLIBEL



McLibel campaigners Helen Steel and Dave Morris have won another partial victory against McDonald's in the Court of Appeal. Three law lords ruled that it was fair comment to say that the burger giant's employees "do badly in terms of pay and conditions" and that if enough McDonald's food was consumed it could lead to heart disease. However the duo are appealing to the House of Lords against a point they lost - their insistence that multi-nationals should not have the right to sue individuals who criticise them when there is a public interest defence.

EBOLA

Some of the world's most deadly pathogens, including Lassa fever and Ebola, will be studied at a new top-security laboratory which is due to open later this month.
French pharmaceutical company Mérieux built the lab in Lyon. It is designed to resist earthquakes and armed attack, says the lab's director, Susan Fisher-Hoch. Staff will wear pressurised suits similar to those worn in nuclear plants.
(Mérieux buys cats from Hillgrove Farm.)

BSE

A sudden jump in the number of cases of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease has fuelled fears that Britain could be facing a large-scale epidemic of "human BSE".
The CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh reports in the Lancet that in the last three months of 1998 there were nine confirmed new cases.

NEWS

SHEEP FARMER FINED £1,500

Livestock farmer Richard Lennox has been fined £1,500 after being convicted of three charges of giving false information relating to a lorry-load of 370 sheep destined for a German abbatoir.

Paperwork gave the name of another person as the transporter and said that the journey time was eight hours less than it actually was.

Lennox, of Layer de la Haye, was also told to pay £1,217 costs in a case brought by Kent County Council Trading Standards.

The prosecution alleged that Lennox hid the sheep by drawing heavy "curtains" across the open sides of the articulated trailer.

On checking in at Dover, he described the load as "farm produce" and boarded the P&O ferry.



It was on arrival at Calais that staff smelled the sheep and Lennox was questioned.

In his defence, Lennox said the trailer had been equipped with ventilating fans and the curtains had ventilation holes in them.

Speaking after the case, Clive Bainbridge, Head of Kent Trading Standards, said: "The documents concerned are supposed to enable the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to monitor live animal exports and ensure that livestock is transported in accordance with legal requirements.

The provision of false information frustrates these efforts and we are pleased that the court in this case recognised this with a substantial fine."

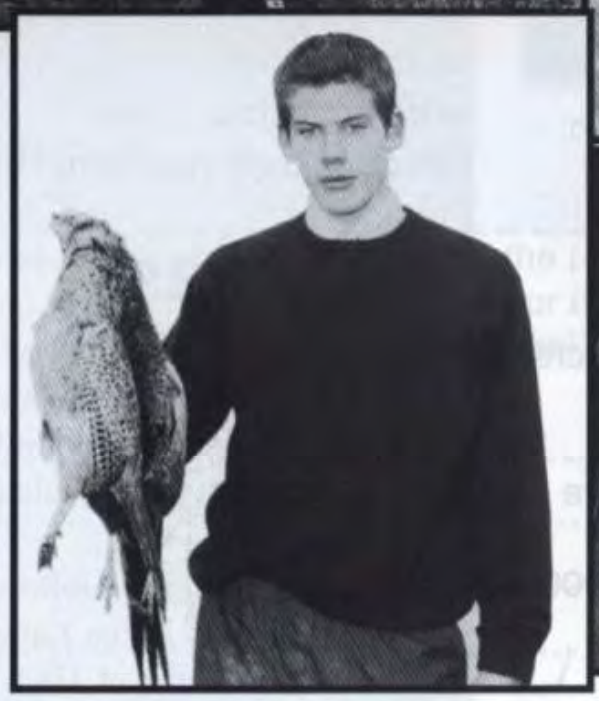
KIDS BRAINWASHED . . . TO KILL

With the recent fatal shooting of 15 school children by fellow pupils at a school in Colorado, and with numerous studies pointing to an obvious link between animal abuse and human abuse, surely there should be a clampdown on hunters and shooters. These pictures are a few of many we could print: they show children from a very young age being brainwashed and taught that shooting living creatures for fun is acceptable. Should we really be surprised when they turn into future Michael Ryans or Jeffrey Dahmers?















NEWS



WILL THEY EVER LEARN?

An urgent inquiry was launched after a dog was left lying in his own blood for three hours on a cold police kennel floor. Rambo, an 11-year-old mongrel, later had to be put down after a vet found his injuries, believed to have been caused by a car, were too severe for the dog to survive.

His distraught owner, George Chapman, claimed he wasn't even given a lift when he arrived to take the dog from Basildon police station, so had to cradle Rambo in his arms as he walked across town to the vet's.

The RSPCA has launched an investigation in partnership with a senior officer from another police station and officials aren't ruling out a possible prosecution.

Mr Chapman said "After the Essex police dog scandal you'd think they would behave differently, wouldn't you?"

Mr Chapman's grief has been compounded by the fear he will also lose Dixie, an 11-year-old mongrel who was Rambo's life-long playmate. Mr Chapman has found Dixie lying by the side of Rambo's grave, just whimpering.

The drama unfolded when Mr Chapman took the two dogs for a walk at 2am. Rambo ran off, but George knew he was micro-chipped and waited by the phone at home for the call to say he had been found.

By 7.45am, Mr Chapman decided to call Basildon police. An officer confirmed a dog of Rambo's description had been brought into the kennels, so he made his way to the station.

He claims when he got there he was made to wait up to half an hour for the dog warden before he was allowed to see Rambo.

Mr Chapman said: "He was just lying there, listless and covered in blood. I called his name and he tried to lift his head in acknowledgement. Then he moved his tail slightly in a hello.

I couldn't believe it. I just held him in my arms. When I got to the vet's he said it looked like he had spinal and leg injuries and probably brain damage.

"Rambo was so traumatised he said the kindest thing would be to put him down."

Mr Chapman claims the vet told him if the dog had been brought in earlier there might have been a chance to stabilise him.

Mr Chapman said: "I had to stand there while he was put to sleep. Then I had to break the news to my wife who came down to say her goodbyes. Rambo was one of my children. The whole family misses him."

4 BEAGLES RESCUED !

During a daylight raid on April 1st 1999, 4 beagle dogs were liberated from Wema-hund Ab in Orbyhus, Sweden, where dogs have been bred for vivisection for over 30 years. This is the first liberation ever at this place. All the dogs have now been placed in new loving homes where they will be able to live out the rest of their lives in peace.



News in Brief...

HUNT BAN

A HUNT has been banned from Forestry Commission land for 31 days and is the first hunt to fall foul of new rules governing hunting on public land.

The ban on the New Forest Foxhounds came after video film by animal rights activists showed the hunt allowing hounds to dig out a fox which had gone to ground.

DOG TRACK CLOSED

The Balear dog track on Mallorca and Canodromo Pabellon, one of two greyhound tracks in Barcelona, has recently closed and the future of Meridiana, the other Barcelona track, is uncertain. Conditions at the Balear track were described as "hideous" by a British vet who visited all the Spanish tracks in November.

Although any news about the demise of the appalling Spanish greyhound racing industry is good news, it has left the problem of hundreds of greyhounds suddenly needing homes. The main organisation involved in rescuing and rehoming the dogs is Greyhounds in Need, 5 Greenways, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9PA. They are desperately in need of funds. If you can help financially, or in any other way, please don't hesitate to contact them.

BSE SHAMBLES

Deciding who shares the blame for Britain's BSE crisis has become so complicated that the official BSE inquiry has asked for more time to complete its deliberations. The inquiry hoped to reach its conclusions by June 1999, but after sending letters to people who may be criticised, inquiry chair Lord Phillips now says this timing is unrealistic.Questions in the letters are so complex that many recipients have requested more time to reply.

NEWS

HUNT THUGS FIGHT EACH OTHER

A HUNT ball ended in a fight as two men fought in a row over championship horsewoman Joan Isaac, Swansea Crown Court has been told.

The two brawled furiously in the stableyard at the farm in Bryncoch, Neath. Mrs Isaac, aged 52, and twice a winner at the top-notch Horse of the Year show, had begun an affair with dashing young horseman Anthony Edwards of the Banwen Miners' Hunt in the Neath Valley. Then she moved the 37-year-old onto her stud farm and equestrian centre at Grange Farm. Edwards and Mrs Isaac were not invited to the hunt ball. And trouble flared when Mrs Isaac's husband Wayne returned from the dance to find that Edwards had turned off the electricity and padlocked the main gate. Both men pleaded guilty to affray and each was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £275 costs when they appeared yesterday before Judge Hugh Williams QC.

Former professional huntsman Edwards was also ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to a woman doctor after he admitted wounding her. Mrs Isaac's 34-year-old daughter Allison told a national newspaper: "My mother's a trollop. I could never forgive her for the hurt she has caused me, my brothers and my father."

Dean Pullin, prosecuting, said the background was an acrimonious dispute resulting from the break-up of the Isaacs' marriage following Mrs Isaac's affair with Edwards. The court heard that Wayne and Joan Isaac had been married for more than 20 years. They had run Grange Farm as a stud farm with an accompanying horse-drawn wedding carriage business. But during 1996 Mrs Isaac announced she was having an affair with Edwards and he



moved to Grange Farm to live with her. At the time, Mrs Isaac's husband and two adult sons were also living there. Mr Pullin said the situation led to a number of wrangles as to who should operate the farm. The court heard that on the evening of February 27th last year Mr Isaac and his two sons Carl, aged 24, and Paul, aged 22, attended a hunt ball at the Glyn Clydach Hotel. Edwards and Mrs Isaac had not been invited. Trouble flared when Mr Isaac and a number of other people in dinner jackets and ball gowns arrived back at Grange Farm in the early hours of the next morning. Mr Pulling said there was a violent confrontation between Isaac and Edwards and one of the guests, Dr Barbara Lewis, bravely intervened to stop them fighting. Edwards appeared with a twitch - a device used to subdue horses, made out of a pick-axe handle with a rope noose threaded through it.

When he swung it Dr Lewis suffered a heavy blow above her right eye and collapsed to the ground bleeding profusely. Isaac and Edwards then continued fighting, despite attempts by others to break up the brawl. Mr Pullin said fighting was still taking place by the time police arrived on the scene and officers had to handcuff a number of people. Francis Jones, for Edwards, said his client was extremely remorseful and apologetic. "He reacted wrongly in a situation that had been festering for some considerable time," said the barrister. He said a major cause of the trouble was that the parties had all been living in close proximity to each other.

CELEBRITY SCUM



Actor Nigel Havers pictured with a fellow blood junkie at a British Association for Shooting and Conservation dinner in York



Sir Clement Freud photographed at a party the night before the annual hare coursing event, theWaterloo Cup

MINK FARMER FINED

A FARM where thousands of mink were released into the wild by animal welfare activists last August was fined £5,000 for cruelty offences.

Inspectors from the Ministry of Agriculture and the RSPCA found mink living in appalling circumstances, without proper water feeders and in filthy cages, magistrates at Lyndhurst, Hants, were told. The farm, TT Smith (Mink), was fined after admitting 15 charges, but Respect for Animals, an animal welfare group which uncovered the abuse, criticised the fact that the farm was allowed to keep its licence.



NEWS

JUST DO IT...

The two pictures are of a shooting tower and a Larsen trap. You can find the shooting towers in many forests. They are mainly used for scum to hide in to shoot deer and foxes. Over recent years there has been a trend of cutting them down at night with chainsaws - in effect totally destroying them.
Larsen traps are very common in the UK. They are used to trap magpies and crows. They can often be found in most rural areas. Most of the time the animals caught in them are left to starve to death.
Allegedly the most effective way of dealing with Larsen traps is to release the trapped animal then smash the trap to pieces - (Vegetarian Shoes Para boots seem to like doing this).
The traps are totally indiscriminate and are killing our wildlife. So destroy them all!





STAG CHASED INTO SCHOOL

An investigation has been launched into an incident in which hounds pursued a hunted stag into a primary school playground. Four hounds from the Devon and Somerset Staghounds pack chased the animal into Parracombe school on Exmoor, distressing children who were due to be collected by their parents. Vicky Rollason, head of educational effectiveness for north Devon, said: "We are deeply concerned about this incident and the potential risk this posed to the safety of children, parents and staff."
Parent Maria Hawkworth, aged 29, said when she pulled up at the school gates to pick up her children she could see the stag trapped up against a door by the hounds. Children who were watching were "very distressed", she added. "It must be the most horrendous thing I have ever seen," said Mrs Hawksworth.



News in Brief...

RABBIT ROUND-UP

PROPOSED RABBIT FARM

East Riding Council have just granted planning permission for the erection of a rabbit farm just outside Market Weighton. The plans indicate that 2,000 rabbits will be housed in battery cages in a single,windowless shed. There will be 4 rows of cages, each cage providing floor space of $0.56m^2$. It is specified that this will be the living space for 8 rabbits. Kept in tiny wire-mesh cages, devoid of any natural stimuli, these affectionate creatures will live out their short lives. At 12 weeks old they will be slaughtered for the meat export market.
The person who is proposing to set up the farm is Kirsty Mackley, 19 Westfield Crescent, Market Weighton YO43 3EL.
There is currently an active campaign to stop the farm going ahead. For more details of what you can do to help and for demo dates phone 0961 998 069

HOMES WANTED

60 rescued rabbits need loving homes after narrowly escaping being destroyed and many surviving horrific injuries.Some of the rabbits found had abscesses and broken limbs. The rabbits have responded well to veterinary attention and are now fit and healthy. If you can offer a home preferably in the Midlands Area contact Annette - 01604 863175

DO PEOPLE REALLY GET PAID FOR THESE IDEAS?

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has come up with a very sick way of dealing with world hunger which has rabbit as the main ingredient.
"Rabbits produce low-fat, protein-rich meat. And because they breed fast they are relatively cheap to buy" says Rene Branckaert, an animal production officer with the FAO in Rome. He continues: "Backyard rabbitries are the perfect answer to today's demand for sustainable development."
The Fao has established an information network covering 14 countries around the Mediterranean to promote rabbit farming.

NEWS

CHIPPERFIELD PROSECUTION JOKE

MARY CHIPPERFIELD and her husband Roger Cawley were escorted through a crowd of furious protesters after being fined for cruelty to animals.
Chipperfield, 61, was fined a total of £7,500 for 12 charges of cruelty towards a chimpanzee and Cawley, 64, was fined £1,000 for cruelty towards a sick elephant. But incredibly no order was made preventing them from keeping or working with animals in the future.
It is obvious that the cruelty caught on film was not just a one-off nor an "unfortunate episode" as Chipperfield put it, but is part of the systematic cruelty faced by every animal in every circus every day.



WHAT YOU CAN DO
Don't visit circuses which use animals.

If you see adverts for a circus in your area find out whether they have animals. If they do here is a plan of action:

1. Write a letter to your local paper, asking people to boycott the circus and explain why.
2. Ask local shops that have circus posters on display to please take them down.
3. If the circus has been "fly posting" in the area complain to your local council. If this has been done without permission you are perfectly entitled to remove the posters. Alternatively paste cancelled stickers over their posters.
4. Organise a demo outside the circus and give out leaflets.

Write to your MP and ask that circuses with performing animals be banned.

Write to your local council asking them to ban animal circuses on council land (if they haven't done so already).
The following people are all connected with Chipperfield circus. Why not contact them and let them know how you feel about their cruel trade in animal abuse.

Richard J & Janet Chipperfield, The White House, Southcoombe, Chiping Norton, Oxon
Peter Burrow, Chipperfields Farm, Heythrop, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 5TU **01608 683197**
Dennis Marshall, Barbara Wieshoff, Chipperfields Farm, Heythrop, Chipping Norton, Oxon
James C. Clubb, Sally Clubb, 1 East Lodge, Chipperfields, Heythrop, Chipping Norton, Oxon
Anne, Emma L.C., Michael S. & Rafe R.J. Tunnicliffe, 2 East Lodge, Chipperfields, Heythrop, Chipping Norton, Oxon
S. Chipperfield, East Lodge Cottage, Heythrop, Chipping Norton, Oxon **01608 683389**
Mary Chipperfield, Croft Farm, Over Wallop, Hants
Steven Gills, 16 Wainwright, Southgate, Crawley, Sussex

BADGER CULL UPDATE

The closed season for MAFF killing badgers stops on the 1st of May, enabling them to resume killing within the cull trial areas. There are now 3 areas, North Devon, East Cornwall and the Forest of Dean. May is supposedly the end of the breeding season, but cubs will still be reliant on their mother for months. The killing will leave them to starve.
The Parliamentary Agriculture Select Committee report was out on 27th April and told the Government to speed up the trial which is likely to take 5-7 years. The report claimed the cull will not substantially affect the overall badger population and therefore justified the cull. Bearing in mind the cull aims to practically wipe out badgers in large areas, this is a totally ridiculous claim, ignoring the serious welfare problems and the Bern Convention which voted unanimously in December that the UK Government is wrong to kill 20,000 badgers..
If you can offer any assistance practically or even financially in any of the three trial areas, please contact mobile 07887 655459 or pager 04325 571107.

G8 SUMMIT - DAY OF ACTION

June 18 1999 - International Day of Action against Global Capitalism. June the 18th 1999 marks the beginning of the G8 summit of the world's richest nations which takes place this year in Germany. It is also a time when activists across the globe will come together to challenge the root causes of the oppression of people, animals, and the environment - global capitalism. There will be actions world-wide at financial centres, banking districts and at the offices of multinational corporations, including the City of London. Most animal abuse is big business and is carried out by vast companies, who are supported by the banking system, for example Nat West who last year bailed out Huntingdon Death Sciences and saved the company from closure. Actions and events will take place in the City of London from early morning through to the evening, including a carnival organised by Reclaim the Streets. London Animal Action is co-ordinating animal rights actions and is asking protesters to meet at 10.30am outside Farringdon tube station. Further details: LAA, BCM 2248, London WC1N 3XX. Tel: 0171-278 3068. Email: laa@londonaa.demon.co.uk.

NEWS

BADGER DIGGER JAILED



A man was jailed for two months after a court ruled that he had used two dogs for badger hunting. **Darren Wilkinson** was also disqualified from keeping a dog for 10 years. Derby Magistrates' Court heard that an RSPCA officer and a policewoman, acting on a tip-off from a member of the public, discovered the Jack Russell terriers at Wilkinson's home in **Bells Lane End, Hartshorne, Derbyshire**, in December 1997. One of the dogs had most of its snout missing and the other one had bite wounds on its ears, cheek and leg. The RSPCA and a vet described the injuries to the more severely hurt dog as the worst of its kind they had ever seen. Wilkinson admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a Jack Russell terrier by failing to get medical treatment for the animal, but he claimed that he had found the dog while out walking and taken it home. Sentencing Wilkinson yesterday, stipendiary magistrate John Friel said: "It goes without saying that the dog must have suffered terribly. "In my view you have shown no remorse for this matter. I conclude you made up this story about finding the dog and you feel no responsibility for the suffering which the dog had to endure." Wilkinson's girlfriend, **Angela Yates (24)**, who lives with him, was given a one-year conditional discharge and disqualified from keeping a dog for three years. She had denied causing unnecessary suffering to the badly-injured dog by omitting to take it to a vet, but was found guilty of the charge at a hearing last month at Swadlincote Magistrates' Court.



The badly-injured terrier, which RSPCA officers nicknamed No Nose, made a full recovery after having its face reconstructed by vet Geoffrey Smith of Waterloo House Veterinary Surgery in Swadlincote. Wilkinson and Yates agreed to sign over both animals to the RSPCA, which is now looking for new owners to give them a good home. After the hearing, RSPCA inspector Neil Astle said: "This was a very serious offence and I think the sentence reflects that. Wilkinson and people of his ilk are a danger and threat to animals, and I am glad he has been taken out of the system for a while."

News in Brief...

PATHETIC SENTENCES

Two men involved in using live rabbits to train greyhounds at the Hawick dog track in Scotland each received the disgracefully low penalty of just 200 hours community service when they appeared for sentencing at Jedburgh Sheriff Court on April 1st.

The track manager, Frank McFarlane, 49, of Fairhurst Drive, Hawick, was convicted in March of aiding and abetting greyhound owner Roy Burns to cause unnecessary suffering to rabbits.

Burns, 50, a dairy worker, of Old Craighouse Cottage, Lockerbie had previously admitted 3 cruelty charges arising out of events on October 1st last year, when he took four live rabbits, in a sack, to the track at Albert Park, Hawick.

One of the rabbits was tied to the mechanical hare and died from multiple injuries after being subjected to 22 seconds of terror as a greyhound chased it round the stadium.

Burns also cut the rabbit twice with a knife while it was still alive. Burns, who was said by the SSPCA to have shown no remorse for his actions, also admitted removing one of the wild rabbits from the sack and repeatedly attempting to encourage a greyhound to bite the animal.

Burns and McFarlane have now been banned from all "official" greyhound tracks in the UK.

REGAL RABBITS RAIDED

Anonymous communique received by Bite Back:

"In the early hours of Thursday 25th March, ALF activists raided the premises of Regal Rabbits, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey, UK (see Bite Back issue 1). Regal Rabbits breed animals for cruel and useless animal experiments. Activists entered through a window on an outer wall and then through the ventilation system to reach the breeding cages. Around 60 rabbits were rescued from filthy, disease-ridden conditions. The animals taken were breeding females with their litters, all now saved from the butchery of the vivisector's blade. The empty cages were trashed and slogans daubed all over the building. These beautiful, playful rabbits are now able to live their natural lives in safe, loving homes. Animals such as these can't wait for laws to change or people to boycott tested products. They cannot speak for themselves. Their future depends on us. Animal liberation is easy, take control, just do it. Smash the labs."

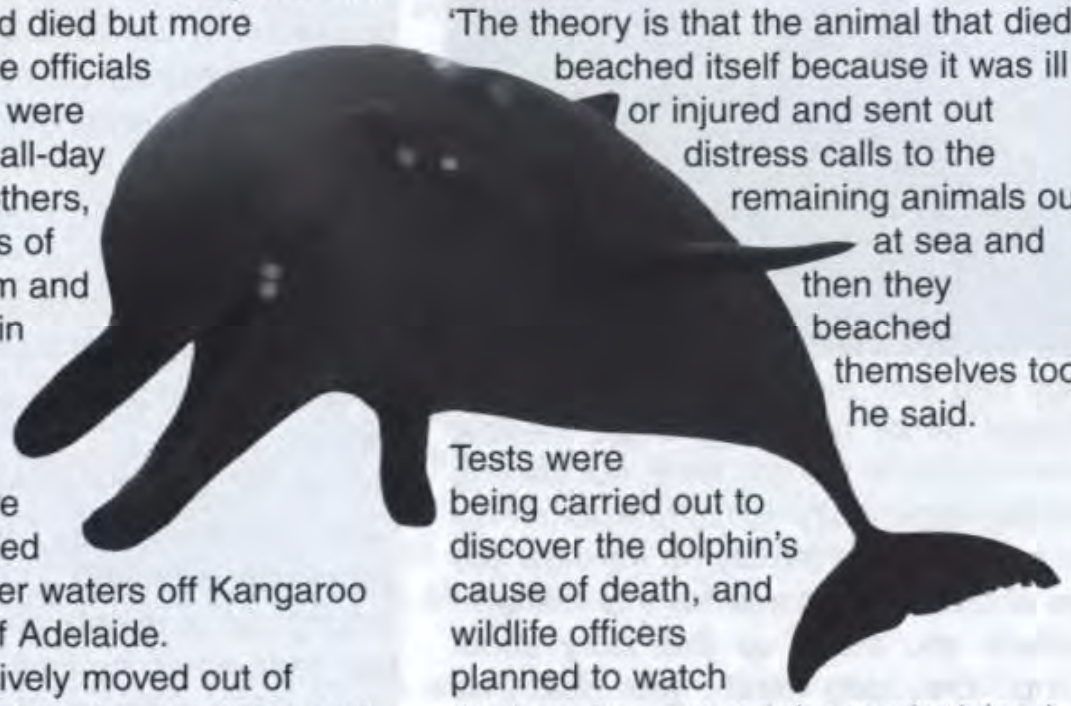


60 Rabbits saved from a fate like this

NEWS

DOLPHINS RESCUED

A dying dolphin is believed to have led 44 others onto a southern Australian shore, forcing rescuers to push the beached animals back into the sea.
Rescue co-ordinator Keith Twyford said one dolphin had died but more than 100 rescue officials and volunteers were involved in the all-day rescue of the others, pouring buckets of water over them and covering them in wet hessian to keep them comfortable and calm before they were herded back into deeper waters off Kangaroo Island, south of Adelaide.
'They progressively moved out of people's hands into deeper water and swam off in a pod,' Mr Twyford said.
The oceanic common dolphins, which generally live in deeper waters off Australia and in other temperate climes, were found stranded early yesterday on a sandbank in a Kangaroo Island bay.
Mr Twyford said it was unusual, although not unheard of, for dolphins to beach themselves, particularly in such numbers.
'The theory is that the animal that died beached itself because it was ill or injured and sent out distress calls to the remaining animals out at sea and then they beached themselves too,' he said.



Tests were being carried out to discover the dolphin's cause of death, and wildlife officers planned to watch the beaches around the tourist island for the next 24 hours to ensure that the dolphins did not become stranded again.

On Fri 5 March activists paid a visit to **David Sung, 24f Randolph Crescent, Little Venice, London W9. Tel: 141 0171 266 2588** (He was recently convicted of shooting and almost killing a neighbour's cat and is also a bloodsport fan). They gained access to the building and located his flat door within it. He was not in, so activists left messages scrawled on his door such as "Scum - we know where you live" and "Cat Killer". Post waiting in a pigeonhole for him was redirected down a nearby drain and the activists left.

UNDER EVERY STONE

Here are a few examples of bloodsport adverts recently found in Shooting Times. Now, as you can imagine, the last thing they would want is people making hoax bookings or ringing up at unsociable hours. We can't have people who delight in shooting wildlife inconvenienced now can we?

SHOOTING TIMES AND COUNTRY MAGAZINE

SPORT TO LET

Our weekly round-up of days available from leading sporting agents

HENDRY RAMSAY & WILCOX
● **Overseas shooting.** Take advantage of the strength of Sterling. Programmes in Spain (until March 31) Eastern Europe, Iceland, South America (year round). Send for our overview. Contact Hendry, Ramsay & Wilcox, 55-57 North Methven Street, Perth, PH1 5PX. Tel. (01738) 443344, fax. (01738) 443327. Internet: http//www.ndirect.co.uk/~hrwscothunt. Email: hrwscothunt@ndirect.co.uk

HERRISLEA HOUSE HOTEL
● **Take a trip to unspoilt Shetland** for a week's package which includes trout fishing over 300 lochs. Try sea angling/island hopping and enjoy our excellent restaurant. Tel. (01595) 840208

HUNT EXTRAORDINAIRE
● We offer a wide variety of exclusive **bird safaris in Southern Africa.** Packages include 20 different species in prime locations. Discover the various and affordable bird shoots we offer on a classic African safari. Prices for five days start from £1,500 all inclusive. Call Thomas Nel on (01335) 372170 or (0973) 822117. Email: huntex@msn.com WWW.http//www.huntex.com

LENJANE DRIFT SAFARIS KZN,
● **South Africa.** Seven-day stalking trips (includes full board and ground transport). Plains game trophy hunting from £995. Cull hunts (seven animals) £1,150. Tel./fax. (01844) 202812

PENNINE SPORTING
● **Driven Grouse:** Inverness-shire: August 12-14. 80 brace days @ £90 + VAT per brace. August 16 - 21. 50 brace days @ £90 + VAT per brace. Perthshire: August 30 - 31 and September 6 - 7. 50 brace days @ £85 + VAT per brace including lunch. Driven pheasants: West Sussex: 150-250 bird days @ £19.50 + VAT/bird in November and December. Herefordshire: 250 bird days for eight Guns at a total cost per day of £5,450 (inc. VAT). Excellent high birds. Dates in November and December available. All the above figures per bird are subject to agent's commission. Tel. (01295) 277197, fax. (01295) 268651

STEPHEN WOODS



The following note was found pinned to the gate of Stephen Woods, live export haulier and subject of regular demonstrations:
"As was explained in the statement made to the Redditch Advertiser on Tuesday 20th April 1999 we are not currently involved in livestock exports and do not intend to be in the foreseeable future."
Whilst this is obviously a positive step, it is by no means the end.The demos will continue until Woods says he has given up for good.For info contact Lisa on 01384 828685 or write to C.A.L.E.X. PO BOX 1176 KIDDERMINSTER DY10 1WQ

CAT AND DOG FUR DEALERS IN LONDON !



A recent BBC documentary revealed that a London-based fur dealer has been trading in skins of domestic cats and dogs. The animals were killed in China in appalling conditions and imported into the UK by Alaska Brokerage International Ltd. The processed pelts are mainly sold to Europe for use in children's clothing.
Alaska Brokerage International, formerly known as Rosenberg & Lenhart Ltd, are based at the fur trade headquarters at Bellside House, Elthorne Rd, London N19. They also have an office at the world's largest fur auction house, the Copenhagen Fur Center in Denmark.
One of their directors, Peter Norman Bartfeld, 57, is a past director of the British Fur Trade Association and also has interests in several other fur companies, including A B China Direct Ltd. You can write letters of complaint to him at his house: 48 Sheldon Ave, London N6 4JR.
Other directors would also welcome letters of complaint: Annie & Kenneth George Brown, 34 Marne Ave, London N11 1JU. Tel: 0956 544 060.

NEWS

WEST COUNTRY HUNT CLOSES DOWN

A massive police presence kept the peace between saboteurs and foxhunters when the historic West Kent Hunt met for the last time on Saturday. In what police called a "well-planned operation", 70 uniformed officers kept an eye out for trouble as record numbers of hunt followers - 200 riders and nearly 1,000 foot followers - gathered near Penshurst.
The well-publicised event, which started from Walters Green, also attracted around 50 saboteurs from south-eastern groups but the hunt passed without major incidents or arrests. Kent Police used Fordcombe Primary School as a base with an ambulance on standby in the village. Spokesman Iain Luxford said the potential for trouble was high. "It was a very significant event for the West Kent Hunt, with several key masters retiring. We were informed by the hunt there would be more than 200 riders and several hundred foot-followers. "We also had information there could be a large gathering of saboteurs so we had little choice but to police at that level."



Police are studying video footage after a female saboteur suffered a broken left arm. Mr Luxford said: "We will be looking at video evidence to see whether any offences were committed."
Saboteur spokeswoman Nicky Honey said: "The end of the West Kent Hunt means one less hunt for us to worry about."

DOGS SEIZED

ABOUT 100 dogs have been seized by RSPCA inspectors at the home of a former Ministry of Agriculture veterinary surgeon.
Dr Helen Hein, their owner, was questioned about whether she had caused the German shepherd dogs unnecessary suffering. Rachel Stafford, who looks after the dogs and lives at Dr Hein's home near Guildford, Surrey, was also interviewed. Both women were released on bail.
RSPCA officers and the police spent a day taking photographs and filming the dogs in their kennels before removing them.



ETHICAL WEBSITES

www.corpwatch.org - Corporate Watch provides regular updates on its website about what multinationals are involved in. The site covers major corporate investments as well as giving you advice on how to become a corporate sleuth yourself and do your own research.

ww.ethicalconsumer.org - The Ethical Consumer is an organisation that provides up-to-date info on the involvement of organisations in shady dealings. If the company you want to know about isn't on its website then you can e-mail your query.

Anonymous communique:
"On the evening of Wednesday 14th April, the Hull home of Paul Sanders was attacked by the Animal Liberation Front.
Paul Sanders and his wife are, among other things, directors of the agency currently supplying Christopher Brown of Hillgrove Cat Farm with animal technicians.
Paul Sanders is also the director of LABAS (Laboratory Animal Breeders Association) and Bantin and Kingman of Hull.
Both Sanders and his wife were home at the time of the attack.
ALF"

News in Brief...

US UNI RAIDED

Animal rights activists in the United States have carried out one of their most spectacular laboratory raids for many years, ransacking 12 labs and rescuing more than 100 animals from research facilities at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.
The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the raids, which are estimated to have caused $1 million (£600,000) of damage. "The ALF is taking action immediately to free these animals from their exploitation," Kevin Kjonaas, a spokesman, said.
"The activists are believed to have entered two university buildings through the roofs and to have abseiled into the laboratories," police say. "They smashed computers, tipped over and wrecked equipment, and painted anti-vivisection slogans on the walls."
The group then rescued 27 pigeons, 48 mice, 36 rats and five salamanders, and took computer files and research notebooks. The ALF said the group had already found homes for the animals.
Last year some 152,000 animals were killed in research at the university.
Mary Brennan, a spokeswoman for the National Association for Biomedical Research, a Washington-based agency that supports vivisection and monitors animal rights activism, said the Minneapolis raid was one of several involving the university.
In February a student dangled from the 17th floor of a university tower to demand a meeting with campus authorities to discuss animal research.
Also in February, police arrested six protesters on charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct after they locked themselves together around their necks in the entrance of the research area.
Ms Brennan said: "This is the most serious activity by animal liberation militants in the United States for some time. In the last year and a half the ALF has become much more active again. They're turning up the heat." If the $1 million damage bill is confirmed, the Minnesota raid will rank as the most damaging attack on a US university since arsonists destroyed a lab at the University of California in 1987.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

GREYHOUND ACTION

Help Stop the Introduction of Greyhound Racing in Vietnam

Vietnam has approved plans for its first greyhound racing track. To stop the introduction of greyhound racing in Vietnam, please write to or call the addresses listed below to politely inform them of the following:-

(1) In the UK, the USA and other greyhound racing countries, commercial greyhound racing has lead to a vast number of "unwanted" dogs, most of whom are put to death, often by barbaric methods.

(2) If they want to allow gambling in their country, greyhound racing is one of the least promising ventures based on experience in the UK and the USA, where support for the activity is declining. Casinos and lotteries are much more profitable, high-growth ventures.

Also direct them to the Greyhound Protection League website (USA) - http://www.greyhounds.org/ and the Rescues Against Greyhound Subsidies website (UK) : http://www.rags.ndirect.co.uk for more information.

Embassy of Vietnam, 12-14 Victoria Rd, London W8 5RD (Tel: 0171-937-1912)

Ambassador Le Van Bang, 1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501, Washington, D.C. 20036, USA

Mdm Pham Chi Lan, Secretary General, International Relation Department, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 33 Ba Trieu St, Hanoi, Vietnam

Mr Vo Van Cao, Director, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 36/6 Vo Thi Sau St, Vungtau City, Vietnam (Vung Tau City is where the proposed track facility will be located)

Greyhound Awareness Week

Many thanks to all those who have already expressed an interest in taking part in the next Greyhound Awareness Week (May 22nd - 29th). We are hoping that many local animal protection groups and concerned individuals will use the Week as an opportunity to educate the public not to support greyhound racing by doing street stalls, writing letters to newspapers, doing interviews in the local media and distributing leaflets to those attending greyhound races and betting shops.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you or your group would like to take part, so we can get leaflets, petitions, posters etc. to you in time. There is no charge for any of our campaign materials - we only ask that you send us a donation if you collect money on your stalls etc. Because of the shortness of time, it would be better to phone us rather than write.

Greyhound Action, PO Box 127, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 3UZ. Tel: 01562 745778 E-mail: greyhound action@i.am

SAVE THE SHAMROCK MONKEYS

Save the Shamrock Monkeys this year organised a march and demonstration through Brighton to mark World Day for Laboratory Animals. Meeting at Preston Park, there were stalls by Animal Aid, Viva!, Hunt Sabs, PeTA, ALF Supporters Group and Save the Shamrock Monkeys. Over 1,000 people from all over the country attended this lively and vocal demo, leafleting the public as the march wound through the busy town centre. Brighton was brought to a standstill as a sit-down protest gridlocked the traffic. The Police tried in vain to control the protests, but a group of about 100 continued through the busy Lanes area and briefly blocked the Aquarium roundabout before rejoining the main group. The police were kept on their toes all day, at one point begging a protester to tell him what route the march would take next!

Brighton residents will now be all too aware



of what goes on just outside their town. Posters and leaflets spelt out the awful truth about Shamrock and their evil trade in primates - indeed many people joined the march mid-way and wanted to know how they could help out. This will be a boost to the campaign as more local people join with animal rights campaigners.

The police refused to let the march continue to the pre-arranged end point, so impromptu speeches were held in the town centre, with protesters blocking two roads. Chris Iles spoke about his experiences working undercover at vivisection labs, one of which used monkeys from Shamrock, and what we all can do to end this trade. Robin Webb gave an impassioned speech, telling the story of one individual monkey who had been tortured and abused at Porton Down and reminding us of all those left inside Shamrock.

Many people then travelled out to Shamrock itself where a wreath was attached to the gates and a minute's silence held in memory. Unfortunately the police refused to let other protesters down to the gates to lay flowers, but those who were allowed down were struck by the new security gates, topped with razor wire; an obvious attempt by the Shamrock management to avoid being D-locked inside again! The campaign was later told of two home visits to Shamrock workers, keeping the pressure up from every angle. The day was a great success and showed the strength of feeling against Shamrock.

Save the Shamrock Monkeys have just produced a new full colour leaflet, which is available free of charge and is ideal for stalls. The group's second newsletter has also just come out - if you would like a copy, please contact us (address below).

Following a demo at Shamrock, a staff member decided enough was enough and handed in her resignation, but there are still 16 others - why not contact them and urge them to follow suit:

Mark Halford & Denise Ann Austin - 32 Elms Drive, Lancing, W Sussex BN15 9LJ.

Helen Coleman, 35 Crescent Road, Brighton, E Sussex, BN2 3RP - 01273 609885

Arthur E/Trevor E Welburn, 146 Hillside, Moulsecoomb, Brighton, E Sussex, BN2 4TE

Sarah Spencer, Teressa, 55 Church Lane, Upper Beeding, W Sussex, BN5 9NY

Andrew C Bradwell, 33 Angmering Way, Angmering, Littlehampton, W Sussex, BN16 3RA

Save the Shamrock Monkeys PO Box 3090 Brighton BN1 3QU
email: shamrockmonkey@yahoo.com
http://www.enviroweb.org/arc/Shamrock/index.htm

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Stop Quintiles' Animal Tests (SQAT)

(Campaigning for an end to animal experiments at Quintiles vivisection lab in Ledbury)

Weekly Pickets

Pickets of the Ledbury laboratory continue to take place every Monday and Thursday from 4pm to 5:30pm to "greet" the lab workers as they leave for home.

Despite the police presence, protesters are often able to surround vehicles leaving the lab and vociferously tell the occupants what they think of them, to such an extent that cars and vans containing lab staff sometimes will not leave until sufficient police arrive to escort them.

World Week Demo

During World Week for Animals in Laboratories, about 30 protesters holding anti-vivisection banners and placards took part in a regional demonstration outside Quintiles' laboratory on Friday, April 23rd. A large police presence was necessary to shield the lab workers from the anger of the demonstrators and a police guard was put on the homes of local Quintiles staff.

Global Week of Action

A Global Week of Action Against Quintiles Animal Tests is to take place from June 21st - 26th. It is hoped that protests will be



held during this week at many of the Quintiles offices and laboratories throughout the world. SQAT is in the process of contacting foreign animal rights activists to tell them about the week of action and give them details of Quintiles premises in their own countries.

For a list of actions see enclosed diary dates.

For those who can't make any of the demos or who would like to do a little extra, details of other Quintiles premises in the UK are as follows:-

G.D.R.U., 6 Newcomen Street , London SE1 1YR (Tel: 0171 378 1772, Fax: 0171 403 4409)

Mallard Court, Market Square, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4RH (Tel: 01784 461661, Fax: 01784 461610)

Quintiles United Kingdom, Ringside, 79 High Street, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 1DZ (Tel: 01344 708200, Fax: 01344 708300)

Glengorse, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0TX (Tel: 01424 776200, Fax: 01424 772625)

Research Avenue South, Heriot-Watt University, Research Park, Riccarton, Edinburgh, EH14 4AP (Tel: 0131 451 5511, Fax: 0131 451 2062)

Esher House, Esher Green, Esher Surrey, KT10 8BT (Tel: 01372 461000, Fax: 01372 461078)

As far as we are aware, animal experiments do not take place at the above locations, but the idea is to put pressure on all Quintiles premises to persuade the company to cease animal testing at Ledbury.

Home Office Demo

On **Thursday, July the 15th,** SQAT is organising a demo outside the Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 (just outside St. James's Park tube station), from 12 noon onwards. The demo will be demanding that Quintiles' licence to do animal experiments be withdrawn, but we would like all those involved in campaigns against other labs and breeding centres to come along with banners, placards, posters etc. to make it a large and visual protest against vivisection as a whole.

Stop Quintiles' Animal Tests, P.O. Box 127, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 3UZ E-mail: sqat@messages.to

LONDON ANTI-FUR DEMOS

In Central London only two fur shops open on a Saturday: Zwirn and Philip Hockley. These two are the main focus for anti-fur activists in the capital. There have been regular pickets at both these premises for several years. The last year has seen an escalation in protests with dozens of people arrested and regular demos at the homes of furriers. A more recent tactic has been mobile demonstrations in the West End, targeting both shops selling fur and individuals wearing fur. These have proved very successful and also make it difficult for the police to easily stifle legitimate protest.

Mobile demo 1

On the 6th March about 25 activists toured around London's richest Mayfair streets confronting people wearing fur coats and paying visits to fur shops and also fashion outlets selling fur-trimmed items. A large banner was on display, there were people dressed as mink and others were made up as "fur hags" wearing suitably painted-up fur coats.

Zwirn's in particular hate these sort of demos, possibly as a result of having had their windows kicked in on one a few years ago! They wound down their shutters and remained closed for most of the day.

The day ended with a noisy demonstration outside Selfridges who are still selling fur-trimmed coats. Their fur department was closed down about five years ago after protest by animal rights activists. During a confrontation with a fur-wearing passer-by, an activist was arrested but later released without charge.

Mobile demo 2

On 10th April there was another mobile demo which started in Knightsbridge. The day started



with an occupation of Dolce & Gabbana's shop in Sloane Street. They were recently implicated in the cat and dog fur scandal and were apparently preparing to stock cat fur in their winter collections. There was no fur on the premises that day. Staff refused to answer questions and eventually became aggressive, trying to assault protesters. Activists left after allegedly leaving a few bruises with the security.

It was a hot day and this meant there were no fur-wearers on the streets, so the demo moved to Mayfair where Zwirn and Philip Hockley were again targeted. Zwirn's again brought their shutters down and kept them that way for the rest of the day. Philip Hockley also went the whole of the day without a single customer. At the end of the day, staff inside Zwirn were allegedly too frightened to come out past protesters, despite being protected by about a dozen police. One person was arrested but released later without charge.

Mill Hill Anti-Vivisection Action

A new campaign has been launched against a major London laboratory. A group of activists in London has started holding regular demos outside the notorious National Institute of Medical Research in Mill Hill, North London. For a number of weeks they have picketed the workers as they arrive and leave the building. Sometimes they have blocked the driveway so cars are unable to get out.

The building is located on a road called the Ridgeway and is about 10 minutes' walk from Mill Hill East tube station. For more details contact: Mill Hill Anti-Vivisection Action, c/o LAA, BCM 2248, London WC1N 3XX. Tel: 0181-2032325.

Email: paul@laa01.freeserve.co.uk

ANIMALS IN GREECE . . .

...and what the holiday brochures don't tell you !



Lazy fat mongrels sleeping in the shade or paddling along the warm beaches in the evening. Kittens meowing from the balconies of whitewashed houses. These are the images that many tourists have of animals in Greece – the sort of images seen in the holiday brochures and on postcards. The truth is, many of the stray dogs and cats are poisoned at the end of the holiday season or they may die from starvation and disease. The average life–span of a stray dog or cat in Greece is less than two years.

Last year I worked for six months at an animal sanctuary near Athens, run by Greek Animal Rescue, a UK based charity (Reg. Charity No: 802243) . It was a harrowing, unforgettable but ultimately a very positive experience. This is an attempt to convey the reality of life for animals in Greece, and to show what can be done to help.

DOGS – Spaying and neutering ... a positive way forward

People in Greece rarely neuter their dogs. They see this as unnatural and routinely let them have puppies. Normally they will keep the puppies for 2–3 months and then they take them somewhere and "let them go" – i.e. dump them. This is seen as "giving them a chance", the natural way of the world. Within days most of the puppies will have died from dehydration in the scorching sun. The rest are highly likely to die from parvo or distemper as soon as they come into contact with other stray dogs. The survivors add to the tens of thousands of stray dogs found everywhere in Greece.

What happens to all the strays?

Tens of thousands of dogs are abandoned every year. Few make it through the winter. The strays who have their own patch and regular food supply are an exception rather than the norm. So what happens to all the others?

Aside from parvo virus and distemper, stray dogs in Greece face other life–threatening diseases. Many are found to be infested with ticks, sometimes with literally thousands of them. These blood–sucking life destroying parasites are also carriers of many diseases, though if treated in time, they can be cured.

Then there is Kala–azar (Leishmaniasis), a tropical disease transmitted by sand flies, which is always fatal and is untreatable. It is a slow, wasting disease which attacks the immune system and causes most of the internal organs to fail over a period of months. The skin becomes dry and scabby and when it flakes off, it leaves the dog covered in open sores.



Thousands of dogs are run down by cars; Greek drivers rarely slow down or make any effort to avoid the dogs which are generally regarded as vermin. Dead dogs of all descriptions litter the Greek highways. They will be removed from the public squares, but on the sides of the faster roads they rot quickly in the sun. Every time I drove to the vets I would stop by the latest casualties to check they were dead. Many of the dogs at the sanctuary are road traffic casualties, still limping but their wounds now healed.

Poisoning of stray dogs is a widespread practice throughout Greece, usually carried out at the end of the tourist season (or at any time they are deemed to be a nuisance). They die a slow and agonising death after eating pieces of meat or bread laced with rat poison, farm pesticides or crushed glass, scattered around indiscriminately. This is illegal, but it is a law that is not enforced. We have also found many examples of dogs that have been subjected to even more barbaric practices, such as being tied to a railway line; dragged behind cars by their front legs tied with a rope; tortured with barbed wire, hanged from trees; thrown in lime, shot by hunters ... the list

goes on.
Cold and starvation also claim many lives. There are many kind Greeks who feed stray dogs and cats, but they rarely have the resources or the inclination to neuter the animals. Feeding them becomes a never–ending task where the population races ahead of the available food supply. As a result we are constantly finding seriously underweight dogs which we take to the shelter to feed up.

CATS

Although slightly better able to look after themselves, cats do suffer many of the same problems as dogs. They are bred out of control, and left to fend for themselves as kittens. Vast numbers succumb to dehydration in the summer, are run over by cars or die from starvation or disease.

ANIMAL WELFARE IN GREECE

Basically this is almost nonexistent.



There are various small organisations that carry out free or cheap neutering and spaying, but these hardly ever receive any public money. There are no vegetarian or vegan societies, no anti-vivisection societies, no opposition to hunting, and almost no opposition to circuses, zoos and the pet trade. The abattoirs consistently fall below European standards.

GREEK ANIMAL RESCUE

Greek Animal Rescue (GAR) is a small UK based charity, founded in 1987, in order to alleviate the plight of animals in Greece. GAR's priority has always been and remains the rescue of injured and abandoned stray dogs and cats. GAR also promotes and undertakes spaying and neutering and is solely responsible for funding and running of the animal sanctuary Markopoulo. The shelter was founded by Niko Leventakis, a local Greek man who has dedicated his life to helping the neglected and abused animals in Greece. He and his wife Linda manage the day-to-day running of the shelter, with the help of volunteer workers mostly from the UK. Niko also deals with many emergency calls, picking up injured or diseased dogs at all times of night and day. The shelter liaises with local vets, to spay and neuter as many strays as possible. It costs just £20 to spay a bitch, but the numbers that can be done are severely limited by lack of funds and volunteers to provide the post-operative care.
There are currently around 170 dogs and 80 cats at the shelter, but finding good homes for them is easier said than done. Some of them are homed with families in Greece and a few go to Germany, Austria and Switzerland - even the UK, despite the barbaric quarantine laws.



WHAT WE NEED
Basically we need two things: volunteers and money. You can become a supporter of Greek Animal Rescue by sending a donation (payable to GAR) to: 69 Great North Way, Hendon, London NW4 1PT and in return you will receive a copy of GAR Newsletter, which includes many rescue stories and other interesting articles. You can contact GAR by telephone on: 0181 203 1956; fax 0181 202 8809 or email at: gar-uk@dial.pipex.com. You can also find out more about GAR from our website: http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/gar-uk (needs updating, but the contents give an idea of what GAR is all about) and if you are interested in volunteering to work at the shelter, please phone 01865 723105 or 0181 2031956 —



FEATURE

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Government-funded vivisection

How often have we heard the scratched record about how labs are inspected by the independent Government Home Office Inspectors? Well, personally I have heard it so many times I've lost count. The word 'independent' becomes laughable when you realise that the government funds vivisection. This is no small beer either - the government spends hundreds of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money on animal research every year. The stark reality is that the government is the biggest vivisector in Britain, dwarfing everyone else. You could fit the Glaxos and Zenecas of this world into a corner of the government animal research machine. In a series of articles in Bite Back about government vivisection and the different guises it takes, firstly we look at the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC was established in1913 and has grown to employ 3069 people full-time (part-time 302). Their annual budget for 1997-98 was £323.6 million of which a staggering £298.5 million came from the government. Whilst it is true that the MRC does other non-animal research it should be remembered that the animal research carried out in their name ranks amongst the most horrifying in the UK. The MRC funds many experiments at labs other than those listed on the map opposite.

At Cambridge University the MRC is currently funding a series of brain damage experiments carried out by Dr. R.M. Ridley and Mr. H.F. Baker.



MRC experiment on a cat at their main lab at Mill Hill, London

One describes, "Brain disturbance and restitution of function in primates" and another "...prefrontal lesions (injuries)in the marmoset", "Conditional learning and memory impairments following neurotic lesion" and "Intercerebral fetal neural grafts to ameliorate the effects of brain damage in primates". All paid for by the taxpayer.

At the Department of Physiology at Oxford University Colin Blakemore is not the only person blinding animals. An S.J. Judge and a Mr. B. Graham carried out this experiment: "Differential occular growth of infant marmosets induced by optical anisometria combined with alternating occlusion (blinding)".

In the 1996 NAVS 'Access Denied' report, experiments at the Sobell Department of Neurophysiology at the Institute of Neurology are described. In one experiment the vivisectors cut or crushed the spinal nerves in elderly cats (up to 15 years old) and in another cat experiment they damaged various spinal nerves with diptheria toxin. The list of these experiments is endless, spanning many different institutes, universities and people. The point is how can the animals ever stand a chance through legislation when the people responsible for the legislation are funding some of the most vicious research? We pay for this research but are not allowed to challenge what is happening. Let us not forget that it is the government who passed the Animal Scientific Procedures Act 1986 of which Section 24 states that anyone releasing information from a vivisection lab ie. letting the public know what is happening via the media, can be imprisoned for 2 years. Whatever

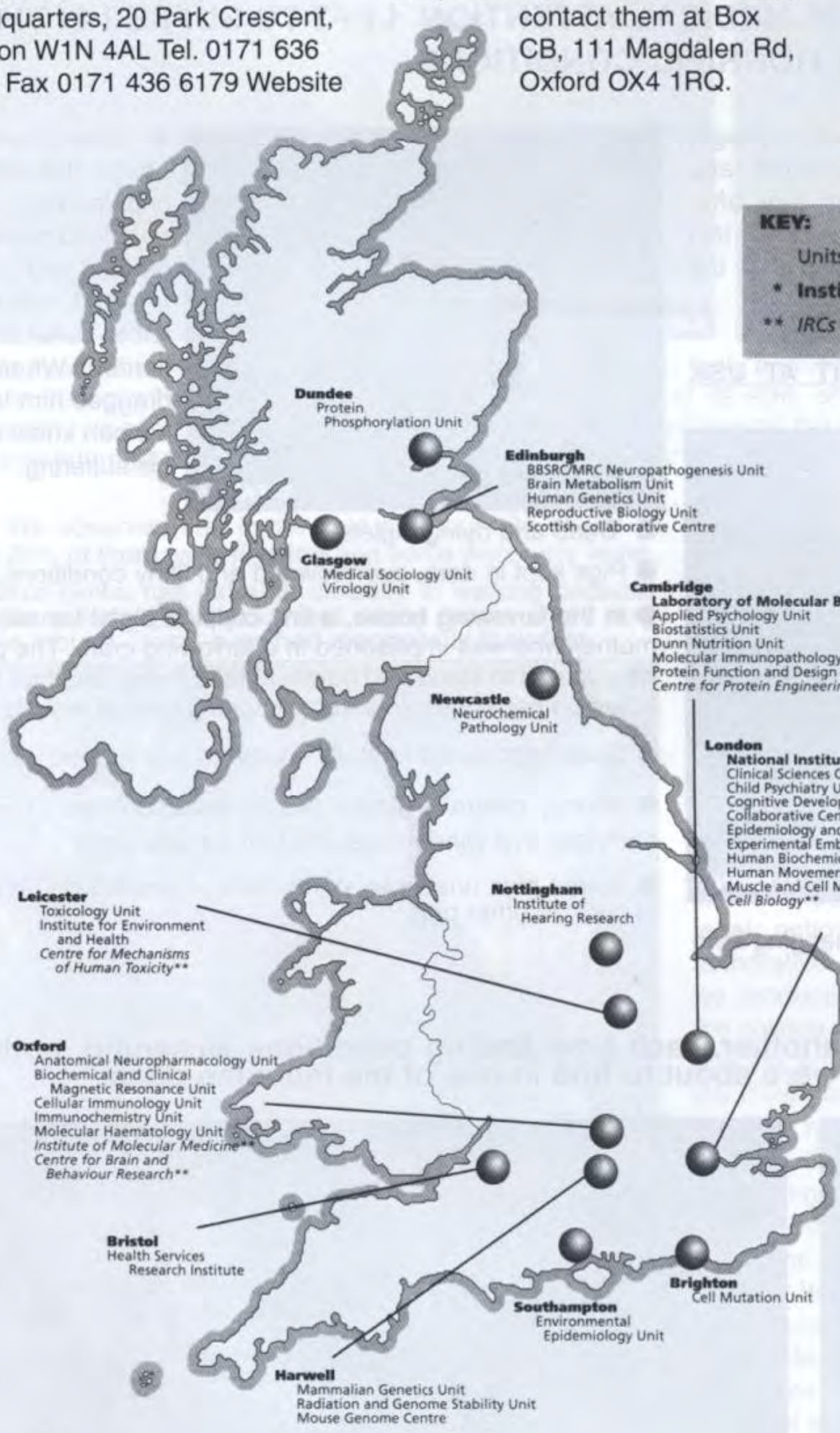


Cats awaiting vivisection at the Institute of Neurology

happened to freedom of information?
A good starting point for investigating MRC research and whether it is animal or non-animal is Current Research in Britain (Biological Sciences) by Catermill Publishing ISBN 1-86067-232-9. Also the MRC publishes annual reports, general reports etc. Contact them at MRC Headquarters, 20 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AL Tel. 0171 636 5422 Fax 0171 436 6179 Website http://www.mrc.ac.uk. The book Caught in the Act is about an undercover investigation which exposed blatant cruelty to rabbits and cats and serious breaches of Home Office regulations at the MRC's main vivisection lab at Mill Hill in London. The Save the Hillgrove Cats Campaign have a few copies of this book to give away free. If you would like a copy contact them at Box CB, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford OX4 1RQ.



Cat about to be killed in an experiment funded by the MRC



On the map: location of MRC Units for the 1996/97 academic year



Rats destined for cruel experiments, paid for by the taxpayer.

FEATURE

WHAT THE FARMERS OF TOMORROW ARE BEING TAUGHT TODAY

A special report by The Friends of Animals Under Abuse (FAUNA)

ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS FAUNA INVESTIGATORS HAVE GAINED ACCESS TO THE ANIMAL UNITS AT USK COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOUND PIGS AND SHEEP IN DESPERATE NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION LEFT TO SUFFER IN THE MOST HORRIFIC CONDITIONS.

Usk College of Agriculture (part of Gwent Tertiary College) teaches student farmers agricultural techniques and farming methods, including how to supposedly 'look after animals'. If their pig and sheep unit is any example of this teaching, it is little wonder that farm animal abuse is on the increase.

ON TWO INSPECTIONS AT THE PIG UNIT AT USK COLLEGE WE FOUND:



● Pigs with huge growths as big as a footballs hanging from their stomachs.



● In the fattening house, this lame, crippled pig, unable to get to his feet and unable to stand, had been left to suffer in the corridor. Whoever dragged him from his pen knew of his suffering.

● Dead and dying piglets,

● Pigs kept in dark, overcrowded and filthy conditions,

● In the farrowing house, a tiny crippled piglet lay with her mother who was imprisoned in a farrowing crate. The piglet was unable to stand and barely able to move. She had deep sores on her knee joints from dragging herself around.

● Sows imprisoned in stalls unable to turn around,

● Young, naturally playful piglets kept confined in virtual darkness in a windowless shed on a metal floor,

● Lame pigs unable to stand, being trampled on, in pens of over 20 other pigs.

As we moved from one building to another, each time finding conditions sickening, nothing could have prepared us for what we were about to find in one of the fattening pens.





● One of the worst scenes witnessed was in the fattening house. In a pen of around 20 other pigs, we found a sow with a prolapse. Blood seeped from her back end and part of her insides (her womb) was hanging out. The other pigs wouldn't leave her alone. They continuously followed her around and kept biting and chewing at her rear.

FEATURE

WHAT THE PUBLIC DIDN'T SEE ! During the 1998 Usk College Open Day, FAUNA went behind the scenes and inspected a field of sheep that were in fields hidden away from public view. There we filmed shocking evidence of the dreadful state of many of the sheep and lambs.





● We found this **dead** ewe in the field *(pictured above)*. Her belly and legs were stained with blood. She had previously been suffering with a huge mastitic growth and because of its size, she'd had great difficulty in walking. On closer inspection, we saw that string and orange twine had been tied around the ewe's udder and the growth had been 'tied off'. This procedure had not been carried out by a vet. Subsequently she was left in the field and died.

● We observed that in the field of about 380 sheep at least 20% of them were **limping** and some were very **lame**.

● Some lambs had extreme difficulty in walking because they were lame on all four feet. Many lambs could only hobble around. Some even had **maggots** in their feet.



● Our attention was drawn to this ewe, in much pain and discomfort, who had large, mastitic growths hanging from her udder and flies swarming around it.

Ironically, Usk College of Agriculture offers courses in 'Animal Care'. Their First and National Diplomas in animal care are "Designed for those who wish to follow careers of responsibility such as veterinary nursing or livestock production etc. Core modules consist of students studying Animal Health and Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Care and Welfare of Farm Animals and students work with college livestock including sheep".

After each of these inspections FAUNA has immediately reported the college for neglect and causing animal cruelty. **BUT, DESPITE ALL OUR EVIDENCE AND DESPITE OUR COUNTLESS ATTEMPTS TO GET THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO ACT UPON THIS CRUELTY AND PROSECUTE, THEY CONTINUE TO PASS THE COLLEGE AS SATISFACTORY. (Makes you wonder how bad conditions have to be for MAFF to class them as unsatisfactory).**

Because of the lack of prosecution against the college, we released our findings to the press and in each instance our filmed evidence was shown as TV headline news. As no legal action was taken against the college by the authorative bodies, MAFF, RSPCA, Trading Standards etc, we produced two different leaflets exposing the cruelty at the college and we asked people to write in to complain. Anyone who writes to the college will receive a letter from the Principal, basically fobbing them off with utter rubbish. They do not accept that anything was wrong. They claim that the FAUNA pictures were taken years ago and that everything's now alright. They also claim that as MAFF did not prosecute them, animal welfare conditions at the college were fine. **Please keep up the pressure. The camera doesn't lie. The photos are real. The animal suffering is real.** Just because the Ministry of Agriculture didn't prosecute the college for animal cruelty, doesn't mean that conditions for the animals were alright. It just shows the extent of animal suffering that MAFF will accept.

For more information please write to:
FAUNA
P.O. Box 156
Cardiff CF5 5YD
Tel: 01222 569914

GUEST FEATURE

PUPPY FARMING

The Welsh Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reports on the truth behind the pet trade



Before the 1980s dog breeding was carried out by the 'Crufts' type and on farms where the farmer's wife kept a breeding bitch or two to earn a bit of pin money. In the early eighties this changed dramatically. When the EEC introduced milk quotas, government advisers from the Agriculture Development and Advisory Service (ADAS), part of MAFF, went around advising dairy farmers on diversification,and one of the areas farmers were advised to diversify into was puppy farming. Unfortunately no information was given regarding the welfare, feeding or housing of their new 'herds'.

What had been a cottage industry now became a worldwide multi-million pound business. Attracting middlemen, the dealers who saw a golden opportunity to get rich. Dogs, the breeding machines, were kept in rusting cars, tea chests, oil drums, sheds, caravans and barns that once housed cattle. With the very rare exception these animals had a poor diet of bread and milk, no exercise, no companionship and no veterinary treatment. Whilst most such breeding establishments were to be found on dairy farms some turned up in unexpected places. One in a village called Capel Iwan in Cardiganshire was a modern bungalow. In the garage, against the rear and two side walls, tea chests were pilled one on top of the other from floor to ceiling. Each chest had a door with a one inch gap at the top. Inside was a breeding bitch. The door to the garage was only opened when the animals were fed and cleaned out. When the door was closed, inside was pitch black.

The county councils, the regulatory bodies, have tried to control this burgeoning industry by introducing new rules for breeding establishments. They proved hopelessly inadequate. Conditions of licences using words such as suitable accommodation and adequate bedding were meaningless and provided no protection for the animals. Various acts of parliament were passed like the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973. But again they proved useless in preventing indiscriminate breeding and cruelty.

West Wales became notorious throughout the world as the epicentre of puppy farming. Puppies were supplied to dealers in the rest of the UK and were exported across the world from Europe to the Far East, to countries where the eating of dogs is common. Not only were the breeders and dealers happy to send puppies to countries like Korea and the Philippines, so too were the vets who signed the Health and Export Certificates. At the height of this trade in misery there were an estimated three to four hundreds puppy farms in West Wales with about two hundred within a twenty mile radius of Carmarthen, who employed one dog warden to police them.

Most of the farms are small with perhaps between two and six breeding bitches. At the other end of the scale are farms with 150 to 200. It is very difficult to estimate the total number of animals involved but it must be approaching five figures.

Every known breed of dog can be found on these farms, including up to a few years ago beagles destined for vivisection labs. Most common are the small breeds, presumably because you can pack more of them in and they are cheaper to feed. Most puppies are sold to dealers for perhaps £50. Business is carried out in laybys and car parks where several breeders will arrange to



GUEST FEATURE



meet the dealer. The dealer will then transport his cargo to pet shops or a pet supermarket in England.
Three years ago the breeders tried to set up a trade association to counter the bad publicity they were getting. They called themselves WALK - Welsh Association of Licensed Kennels. At their inaugural meeting in Llandysul around 200 breeders turned up. They



were asked by one of their number how many of them did not sell their puppies to dealers - only two put their hands up.
As well as selling on, some dealers sell through newspapers, as of course do some puppy farmers. They use regional papers, Exchange & Mart and free ads papers - the obvious answer then is never to buy an animal through a newspaper ad, through a retail outlet or from a dealer or breeder. Go to a rescue instead.
When an animal becomes uneconomic, perhaps too old to produce more litters, they are usually disposed of on the farm, clubbed, shot or drowned. Others are abandoned on the hills or chucked out of cars.
The messages about 'A dog is for life' and 'always see the puppy with its parents' are getting through. But there are still plenty of selfish senseless idiots who will buy a puppy for Christmas because their kids want one or because they think they are buying a status object.
Over the past few years the puppy farming scene has changed, overall, for the better. Because of the publicity generated by groups like Puppywatch, the NCDL and ourselves, the farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to sell their 'produce'. In 1995 we were approached by Customs and Excise to help them look into VAT fraud amongst the puppy farmers. We, of course, were more than happy to help. Last year we saw a number of the targeted farms close or move their operations, particularly to Southern Ireland where their trade is unregulated. Against that we still see planning applications going to councils to set up new breeding establishments.
What the future holds is anybody's guess. There is yet another Puppy Farming Bill going through Parliament now. But even if it makes it onto the statute book there is no guarantee that it will protect all those poor creatures still imprisoned in their Welsh Belsens.
One thing is for sure though. The WSPCA will continue to call for puppy farming to be outlawed, will continue to expose the cruel practices and will still continue to rescue as many of the victims as we can.
For more information contact:
WSPCA, PO Box 6, Llandysul, Ceredigion SA44 5YR

The following list contains the names and addresses of some of the known puppy farms. Please contact them and express your views clearly.
Mr P.D. James, Cottage Kennels, Llangoedmor, Cardigan 141 01239 613163 - Breeder and probably the biggest dealer left in South Wales.
Mr R. Bevan Jones, Meuric Hall Kennels, Cilcennin, Aeron, Lampeter, Cardiganshire. 141 01570 470572 - Breeder and dealer
Mr E.L. Davies, Pointyn Farm, Llangammarch Wells, Powys LD4 4DG 141 01591 620271 - Breeder and dealer
Mr Gareth Howell, Tynewydd Farm, Cynwyl Elfed, Carmarthen SA33 6TL 141 01267281433 - Breeder and dealer
Mr A. Murphy, Precelly Farm, Efailwen, Hebron, Whitland, Pembrokeshire 141 01994 419229 - Breeder
Mr Greg Byworth, Y Bwthyn, Borth, Aberystwyth 141 01970 871701 / 871058 - breeder, dealer and dog thief
Mr & Mrs Davies, Shidenin, Abernant, Carmarthen SA33 5RR 141 01267 281527 - Breeders together with their two daughters
Brenda Carter, Penparc, Velindre, Llandysul, Carmarthenshire 14101559 370371 - Large breeder with around 200 breeding bitches
Mr Evans, Tower Hill Farm, Rhydlewis, Ceredigion 141 01239 851283 - breeder, very bad conditions, a real bastard.



FREEPHONE 0800...

A lot of companies (and charities) use freephone telephone numbers to encourage customers to ring them up at no expense to themselves. This provides us with an ideal opportunity to ring up companies involved with animal abuse and express our views at THEIR expense. You may think that large companies would not be affected by a small rise in their phone bill, but if a lot of people phone up not only does their bill increase but you are also blocking the line and stopping a potential customer from getting through. After ringing up the NatWest bank 6 consecutive times one protester was told "we're trying to run a business and we can't afford to have people jamming up our phone lines" !!!
Some companies also use FREEPOST addresses - this means you can send them heavy items which they have to pay the postage for.

The following list are all companies who make money out of animal suffering. So what are you waiting for? **GIVE THEM A RING !**
Covance Research Unit **0800 591570**
License No. LS AC1, Leeds, **FREEPOST**, LS2 9NG (carry out animal experiments)

Monsanto **0800 0920401** (carry out animal experiments and genetic engineering)

Proctor & Gamble **0800 590555** (carry out animal experiments)

Horse & Hound **0800 7310616** (pro-hunt magazine)

Unilever **0800 838224** (carry out animal experiments)

British Heart Foundation, Education Service, **FREEPOST**, Bristol, BS38 7AX (carry out animal experiments)

Imperial Cancer Research Fund **0800 316 4000**
FREEPOST WC40663, London, WC2A 3BR (carry out animal experiments)

Co-op Bank **0800 109000**
CWS **0800 317287** (own shares in Huntingdon Life Sciences)

Atlantic Superstore **0800 838411** (sell poultry and game equipment)

NatWest bank have earned themselves contempt by lending £24.5 million to notorious vivisection lab Huntingdon Life Sciences. Register your disgust by taking part in telephone blockades to shut down parts of their business AND run up their phone bills. To maintain constant pressure, the country will be split into regions.
Scotland - Monday
Northern England & Wales- Tuesday
SouthEast and London- Wednesday
Midlands & East - Thursday
SouthWest - Friday

On your region's day, please ring **0800 733 337**. This is a line for NatWest's payroll management services for businesses. Either talk about that for a while, or politely explain what the bank does to animals. Ring during the evening and leave a long message on the answer service. Between us we can fill up the tapes and leave them with hundreds of messages to sort through each morning. Either explain why you're doing it, or leave a seemingly genuine message.
Answer machines cut out after two minutes or so. So when you're on the way home and pass lots of public phones, set 'em all off !
The following list are other freephone NatWest numbers:

0800 505050	**0800 592 934**	**0800 243406**	**0800 777888**
0800 815000	**0800 004400**	**0800 331119**	**0800 010166**
0800 733337	**0800 200400**	**0800 400999**	**0800 886688**
0800 818818	**0800 922229**	**0800 783567**	**0800 004400**

Some have answer services. 0800 004400 is manned 24hrs

NEW ANTI-BALACLAVA LAW COMES INTO FORCE

One law for them and one law for us. In the same week that a protester was arrested at a Hillgrove Farm demo for refusing to remove a mask, the following pictures were taken of police who appear to be unaware of the new law !



FEATURE

I SPY WITH MY ALERT EYE

How do you know exactly what is happening at a particular animal abuse establishment or somewhere you just suspect animals are kept? It is a simple 1-2-3:



1. You research your chosen target thoroughly (this was covered in Bite Back No.1)
2. Covert Surveillance
3. Enter the premises

In this issue we cover surveillance. This falls into two categories - urban and rural.

RURAL SURVEILLANCE

Before you run out and buy the SAS handbook, remember they can get away with looking like Rambo - you on the other hand will just arouse suspicion. Many animal abuse centres are near or in villages. Coming from a rural area I know that most inhabitants of villages are nosy and that they notice strangers. So dress smartly but also nothing out of the ordinary. If you are travelling in a vehicle then again nothing that stands out.

Never park your car near your target. Get someone to drop you off. Alternatively mountain bikes are a good way of travelling through rural areas as they arouse little suspicion.

The obvious rule is look normal, act normal and blend in.

Before starting surveillance do a recce of the surrounding area, so you know where you're going in an emergency.

As you can see from the picture it is quite easy to conceal yourself even with an obtrusive silver camcorder.

Here are a few pointers:

- Dog walkers - avoid obvious dog-walking areas, paths etc as the owner may not see you but the dog may well sense you and some country paths are like Picadilly Circus.
- Don't be too far or too near to your target. It may be safe to be far away but what's the point if you can't see anything. If you are too near however you may be compromised. This is something you learn with experience.
- Try to avoid gamekept areas as gamekeepers are used to finding concealed people and are also likely to be sneaking about at night.
- Anything you use for concealment ie. scrim, you must be able to whip off at speed just in case you have to move. All concealment items should be able to fit in a small rucksack (25-40 litres)
- Avoid being on the road at odd times (11pm-6am)
- Never leave any traces that you have been in a certain area ie. rubbish, and always be wary of leaving vegetation trampled down.
- As you can see from the pictures 'brambly' type bushes are good for two reasons. Firstly people are less inclined to check them and secondly nothing grows amongst them so there is no vegetation to trample down.
- Do not wear bright or rustly clothing.



- Think and plan roughly how long you are going to stay. It is no use getting bored after an hour and starting to fidget.
- If you are compromised it will most likely be a nosy dog walker or gamekeeper. An RSPB badge/ membership card (in a false name and address) can be handy as you can simply say you were bird watching etc.
- Let the local wildlife be your judge. If a fox trots 25 feet in front of you without noticing you then you are doing ok. But if you scare everything around you then you will be spotted.
- If you need to record anything camcorders are handy or digital cameras because you don't have to have the film developed.

URBAN SURVEILLANCE

This is completely different and you really have to have your wits about you. The most common way of keeping a target under surveillance in a built-up area is from a vehicle. This needs some thought to the area you are in. Again your vehicle must blend in. Quite often on TV you will see two blokes sat in a car down the road which is ok for about 1/2 hour but after that the chances of some nosy neighbour calling the police thinking you are a burglar are high. Also remember in some areas people are looking out for bailiffs, TV detector people, tax snoopers etc.

There are 3 fairly good methods:

1. Hire an escort type van. You want two things. Firstly it must be plain with no hire company's details emblazoned all over it (some hire companies do plain vans and some don't so shop around). And secondly you want one with no back windows in it. Get empty boxes (ie banana boxes not TV boxes or someone might smash the side window to pinch them). Stack them up behind the driver's seat so no-one can see through the windscreen into the front but leave yourself a small gap to view your target through. You will already be positioned in the back, someone will drive the van to your target, park up and leave it. To anyone looking it looks like an empty fruit & veg van.

2. The second way is to be in the boot of a car with a small hole in the back either by drilling a small hole or replacing / removing something on the back. Look at your car as it varies from car to car. Again be driven in and out of your target area.

3. The third way is good but can be expensive. It involves fitting a pinhole camera to the boot of your car and you sitting nearby watching on a monitor. Try looking in Exchange and Mart under Surveillance and ask some of the companies' advice. A pinhole camera, transmitter, receiver and monitor will set you back £1,000 - £1,500 so it is obviously not an option for everyone.



If your target moves and you need to follow it then bring in another unobtrusive vehicle that should be parked nearby. You can communicate either by good quality radios, not the kind for £20 in Tandys, but ones by companies like Motorola for £400-£1,000 each.

A cheaper alternative is the pay-as-you-go type of digital mobile phone which are now about £60. One thing to remember is that they should only ever be used to contact each other. If you ring home or a friend then you are running a serious risk of compromising the security of the phones. This is only a guide and by no means a definitive guide. It is up to you to keep an eye on animal abusers and it is up to you to use your loaf. Please, please remember don't be paranoid but be clued up and clever.

In the next edition we show you anti-surveillance techniques and electronic anti surveillance equipment.

'Words mean nothing – actions are everything'

– The Hunt Saboteurs Association year in review.

Given the failure of the Government to listen to the public or its MP's, the presence and actions of Hunt Saboteurs have never been so crucial to the hunted animal as they are now. Politicians and bureaucratic charities have again failed to fulfill their promises of a hunting ban. There is widespread feeling around the country that the time has come... HSA Press Officer 10/98



Looking back on the above quote at the end of the season it struck me immediately how true it is. As a hunt sab of many years I've always believed that the hunt sabs' main aim of direct action in the killing fields is the best way to help the hunted animal here and now.

The police seem to be learning too, with the number of saboteurs arrested decreasing against previous seasons, and the police more willing to arrest the real thugs – the hunters and their followers. The 1998/9 fox hunting season brought with it some interesting incidents, and also some all too common tales of needless death. But don't just take my word for it, read all about it below!

Prior to the start of the main fox hunting season on the 1st November, hunters and saboteurs alike were faced with up to three months of early (4am!) starts as the hunts trained their new influx of hounds to hunt as part of the 'cubbing season'. It is a common misconception that hounds hunt naturally, and the new influx to the pack are taught how to behave by the older hounds whilst hunting fox cubs. The bloodsports fraternity have tried to rename this 'autumn hunting' in an attempt to sanitize the whole bloody practice of using innocent cubs for target practice. As the cubbing season drew to an end two Joint Masters of the Crawley and Horsham Foxhounds were found guilty of causing Criminal Damage to a hunt protesters vehicle, each being fined £300. Bloody rural vandals!

The main fox hunting season kicked in on the 2nd November, and within less than ten days two incidents occurred that typify so simply the unbelievable stupidity of the hunters, and the amazing successes that saboteurs can achieve. Both incidents occurred at meets of the Cheshire Forest Foxhounds, the first one involving the death of two hounds on a railway line after they were struck after crossing a high speed line in pursuit of a fox. Unbelievably, the incident occurred at the very same spot that a hound was killed in the same manner the previous year. Peter Hunter, the Master in 1997, stated at the time 'it is..very rare for this to happen..I think it is of great credit to the hunt staff that this does not happen very often'. The fact that it was a mirror image of what happened previously, with the terrible exception that it involved the deaths of two hounds rather than one, clearly highlighted the hunt's disregard for life – whether it be fox or hound. At the time of this incident another 20 hounds had already been killed on railway lines – only 7 days into the new season. The second incident brought about quite a different result, with a fox being rescued from the hounds after they chased it into a freezing pond where it quickly got into difficulties and began sinking. A saboteur jumped into the pond, quickly brought it to the surface and rushed it immediately to a sympathetic vet. The young fox is now safe in a place where the hunters can never terrorize it again.

The 19th of November saw the usual farce of 'National Beagling Day' whereby hare hunting beagle packs attempt to invite Joe Public to participate in their grand sport. Yet again this proved to be a dismal day for the hunters, with less than a handful of beagle packs brave enough to advertise for the supposed new support they craved. Despite the brown hare being named on a list of species deemed to be in decline or under threat, the self-proclaimed 'guardians of the countryside' persist in their 'conservation' claims. They should always know that they can rely on hunt sabs to swell their numbers – see ya next year suckers!

The end of November saw sabs at a meet of the



Old Surrey and Burstow FH (now relegated to the history books following amalgamation with the West Kent FH) attacked by mounted huntsmen and foot followers alike, with one sab left semi–conscious after being hit around the head with a golf club. The huntsman, Mark Bycroft, and several of the hunt followers are known to have previous criminal convictions for assaulting a saboteur in the early 1990's in what the judge described as 'a cowardly and premeditated attack'.

One Northamptonshire copper managed to take a beating which was obviously meant for a sab at a meet of the Grafton FH. The foolish cop had ventured out without his fluorescent jacket, and his sensible dark clothing (although still regulation police uniform!) obviously looked too sab–like to a hunt-supporting farmer, who proceeded to drop kick him to the floor and batter him round the head before being dragged off by PC Plod's yellow–coated mates! Saboteurs present managed to video the attack, and have passed a copy of the tape to the police in the hope of securing a conviction against the farmer.



Boxing Day, one of the biggest days in the hunting calendar, passed by pretty much as normal. Numbers of hunt supporters are dwindling year on year with this Boxing day being no exception. Hunt sabs got quite a good review in the following day's broadsheet papers. Even the Sunday Times managed to mention those scarcely seen words 'Hunt Saboteurs Association'! The season of goodwill – unless you happen to be a fox, hare, deer or pheasant!

January also saw the Ministry of Defence try and stitch us up with a 'Code of Conduct' which attempted to regulate the activities of sabs on MoD land in Wiltshire, but which if adopted would have set a very dangerous precedent (see article in previous Bite Back). In short PC Coppard and all his MoD chums were told in no uncertain terms by the HSA that they would never sign such an agreement – nice to be wanted though!

February brought us Copper the fox, and if only he could have aquainted himself with us a week later on Valentines Day, as he sure did steal the nations heart. The Copper story brought it all together as never before – non–violent direct action saving animals on the day in the killing fields. The sab group responsible for the rescue, the West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group, deserve major respect as an organised group who know all the tactics, manage to put them into practice, and have the guts to take a video camera into situations where it can make you a definite target. Thanks must also go to the vet who treated Copper and was prepared to face the media with his belief that the stress and exhaustion of the hunt chase would have killed the animal without treatment. Copper has now fully recovered from his ordeal and was recently released back into the wild – in an area without hunting of course!

So there you have it, the 1998/9 season all wrapped up for you in a story of police, lies and videotape! These incidents represent a very small percentage of a large number of sab days up and down the country. What's important is that hunt sabs and the HSA have had one of our best years ever – next year can only take us onwards and upwards. If you want to be part of fight against bloodsports please join the HSA. Your money helps us provide support to groups, produce our excellent leaflets and 'Howl' magazine, and provide a voice against all the Countryside Alliance lies. Better still, join the HSA and become an active sab!

Contact Hunt Saboteurs Association at PO Box 2788, Brighton, BN2 2AX. 01273 622827