ARKANGEL

for animal liberation



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Arkangel promotes a positive and united fight for the protection of animals. It covers news and information about all activities and work carried out for animals and invites news and reports and photos from all pro animal societies, groups and individuals. The editor does not necessarily agree with all the activities publicised or views expressed in Arkangel.

Readers may have noticed that the cover price is now £1.50. This does not effect subscribers. The subscription rate is still £6. We can't afford the loss of supplying bookshops and other retailers at bulk trade prices, along with the cost of postage, unless the cover price is raised to allow for this. This is the only reason.

ONE PEOPLE

FETTERED THINKING

by Ronnie Lee

It is really rather sad that John Bryant's otherwise excellent book "Fettered Kingdoms" should be somewhat spoiled in its new revised edition by an Epilogue which so viciously attacks so many forms of direct action and which fails to accept the fact (whether JB likes it or not) that the ALF's campaign of economic sabotage has undoubtedly made a significant contribution to the reduction of animal persecution. Of course there is a certain amount of controversy surrounding some actions carried out by the ALF and other groups, but Bryant would have done a better service to the movement by discussing the pros and cons of such activity in a rational manner rather than indulge in all-out slagging.

John Bryant advocates such things as public education and peaceful persuasion and of course both of these are vitally important and their use needs to be supported and encouraged, but Bryant fails to consider whether such tactics have any limitations. Is it possible, for instance, to educate everybody to have the right attitude towards animals and, if not, what happens if a significant number continue to give financial support, as consumers, to animal persecution? Where is the evidence that the vast majority can be educated? And does not a rational look at society indicate that this is probably not the case?

There is indeed a highly-increased public awareness these days with many more people becoming vegetarians or vegans and attempting to live "cruelty-free" but does that really mean this trend can spread throughout the whole of society or is it only spreading amongst that section of the populace who are open (or allow themselves to be open) to such ideas? Even if most people could be converted, how long will that take and can the animals really afford to wait that long? And finally, if the majority of the population can't be persuaded to live cruelty-free, or if it will take too long, what other tactic is open to the movement to put the animals out of business, apart from direct action?

John Bryant's blind hatred of what he terms "violence" has not only inhibited him from rational discussion in his book but has also caused him to use the tragic death of Mike Hill as a soap-box from which to attack other animal rights activists. In a comment on Mike's death in the Spring '91 issue of Wildlife Guardian, Bryant repeats the lies of the gutter press in his description of the demonstration outside the house of the hunter/driver of the vehicle which killed Mike and his article insulted the demonstrators to such an extent that it caused Mike's family considerable upset. What Bryant conveniently chose to ignore (or perhaps what he failed to realise) was that as well as being a hunt saboteur Mike was also an ALF activist and so would almost certainly not have disapproved of the attack on property belonging to the huntsman involved in his death.

To be truly on the side of the animals is not to allow personal ideologies (whether they be of "nonviolence", "left-wing", "right-wing" or whatever) to stand in the way of what is necessary for their liberation. To be a good and true member of the movement is to give proper respect to others in it even if at times you disagree with their actions. It's time to get rid of those fetters, John!

NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

ANGLO-VENETIAN PROTECTION OF STRAYS (DINGO)
(4 Hop Row, Haddenham, Ely, Cambridgeshire)
Raises funds to support work for stray animals in Venice. In 1989/90 the group had 504 cats spayed, 159 castrated, 291 euthanised and 893 given treatment, vaccinations or operations.



ANIMAL AID
(7 Castle St, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1BH - 0732 366533)
Carried out a small scale survey of medical opinion in the London area - 400 doctors received a questionnaire and about 60 doctors responded. 76% thought there are too many drugs on the market, 84% thought that more emphasis should be given to prevention of diseases and 53% thought that animal experiments should be reduced. Animal Aid was awarded the Mahaveer Trophy for its services to the cause of vegetarianism, at the mass vegetarian rally in Hyde Park, organised by the Young Indian Vegetarians. The society's newest campaign is called 'The Veggie Pledge'. Its aims are to have 10% of the population vegetarian by the year 2000. A new leaflet includes a pledge to give up meat, for the public to sign, and a booklet on the subject is also available. The Society has also launched a Humane Research Donor Card. The card will signify that the carrier is willing to allow their human tissue to be used for medical research, giving research scientists the chance to use material that can not only replace the use of animals in many areas of experimentation, but will also give results that are far more meaningful in attempts to understand and find cures for human disease. 'The Human Factor', a report by Animal Aid's scientific consultant Dr. Robert Sharpe, describes the many advantages of human tissue tests over animal experiments.

ANIMAL CONCERN (SCOTLAND)
(62 Old Dumbarton Rd, Glasgow G3 8RE - 041 334 6014)
Helped to save Magnus, a grey seal who was to be destroyed by Edinburgh Zoo. He had been held there for 20 years and after protests has now been moved to a seal sanctuary in Cornwall. A picket was organised against the National Farmers Union in Edinburgh, protesting at live exports.



ANIMAL CONCERN PICKETED THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION IN EDINBURGH IN PROTEST AT LIVE EXPORT OF ANIMALS.
Pic S. Crawford/ACS

ALF SUPPORTERS GROUP
(BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX)
Has a new range of merchandise for sale, including T-shirts, badges, postcards, writing pads and mugs.





ANIMAL LIBERATION INVESTIGATION UNIT

(PO Box 87, Rochdale, Lancs OL16 1AA)

Launched with a daytime visit to the Boots lab at Thurgarton in Nottinghamshire. Photos and a video were taken of the beagles there. Unfortunately this action resulted in a number of arrests - 43 people were charged with 3 counts of conspiracy and defendants had their homes searched. The action has prompted a nationwide campaign against Boots and the ALIU has posters, leaflets and T-shirts available.

BRITISH UNION FOR THE ABOLITION OF VIVISECTION

(16a Crane Grove, London N7 8LB - 071 700 4888)

Launched its charities campaign, attacking the British Heart Foundation, the Cancer Research Campaign and the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, who are cited as charities whose reliance on animal experiments is wasting time, money and lives. The campaign is backed up with leaflets and posters bearing the slogan "Where Charity Ends" and a 40-page report, "Faith, Hope and Charity", an enquiry into charity funded research by Dr. Gill Langley. The report is available at a price of £3.45 including p&p. The BUAV has recently received a donation of £5,000 from Sainsburys which will be used to aid their cosmetics testing campaign. The winter edition of Liberator magazine listed 12 things to do to help laboratory animals this year, suggesting that you can do one each month - these are, placing a BUAV sticker in your car window, buying the BUAV raffle tickets, filling out a petition, talking to people about the plight of lab animals, organising a street collection, writing to your MP, not giving to a charity which funds animal research, writing to companies asking them to change their policy on animal testing, taking part in the Walk for Laboratory Animals, placing a BUAV collecting box in a local shop, writing to your local paper and buying your Christmas gifts from the society's catalogue.

THE BARN OWL TRUST

ASHBURTON 53026

THE BARN OWL TRUST

(Waterleat, Ashburton, Devon TQ13 7HU - Ashburton 53026)

The object of the Trust is to conserve the Barn Owl and its environment. As part of its work the Trust provides a comprehensive range of information sheets on the owl and its habitat. It has been operating since 1985 and has raised and released over 150 owls into the wild.

CARE FOR THE WILD

(1 Ashfolds, Rusper, West Sussex, RH12 4QX - 0293 871596)

Joined with 4 other organizations to establish a rescue, retirement and rehabilitation centre for dolphins. PRIDE (Protection of Reefs and Islands from Degradation and Exploitation) has offered a protected sea area of some 100 acres surrounded by a secure 1,500 metre fence. It is hoped that this will be turned into the new Dolphin Centre.

THE CAT SURVIVAL TRUST

(The Centre, Codicote Rd, Welwyn, Herts AL6 9TU - 043871 6873/6478)

A charity concerned with the survival of wild endangered cats. Formed in 1976 they have bred over 160 cats in captivity but their main aim is to reintroduce cats into the wild, so that the charity has split its work into two areas, habitat preservation and cat conservation. The Trust has taken in wild cats as breeding stock, some of which had been impounded by the authorities from unlicensed and unsuitable collections.



THE CINNAMON TRUST

(Poldarves, Trescowe, Germoe, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 9RX - 0736 850291)

A registered charity providing help for elderly pet owners and new homes when the owner can no longer look after their pet. The Trust has a sanctuary which acts as a safe haven for a variety of wild animals as well as their rescued charges.

COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING

(20 Lavant St, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3EW - 0730 64208)

Unfortunately lost its case against John Gummer concerning his issuing licenses for the export of animals while French farmers were attacking lorries carrying livestock. The organization commissioned an investigation into livestock slaughter in Spain to prove that the Spanish government's claim of having implemented the EC directive on stunning to be false. A video taken is being used as evidence and is available from the society. On January 24th a 378,000 signature petition concerning the campaign to ban the keeping of pregnant sows in narrow stalls, was handed in to the Ministry of Agriculture.



CIWF members demonstrate at Dover Docks.

CONSERVATIVE ANTI-HUNT COUNCIL

(PO Box 193, Welwyn, Herts AL6 9HG)

Exists to encourage the Conservative party to ban hunting and to generally promote anti-hunting views in Conservative party circles.

COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND

Published a charter calling for the better management of water resources in order to stop rivers and water meadows from drying up and prevent trees and wildlife from dying. The charter urges water companies to set up schemes to keep demand for water in line with existing supplies and states that the public should treat water as a precious and finite resource.



ELEFRIENDS

(Cherry Tree Cottage, Coldharbour, Nr. Dorking, Surrey RH5 6HA - 0306 713320)

Released a single as part of their fund raising efforts. The record, called 'Let Me Live', was released on 6th November. Beauty Without Cruelty, British Airways, Carlsberg and Unilever are among those who have donated time and money to the organization. Elefriends has dispatched a truck and a flat-bottomed boat to Tanzania for anti-poaching activity. The boat's operating range is 500 miles and it is virtually unsinkable.



FAUNA & FLORA
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

FAUNA AND FLORA PRESERVATION SOCIETY
(79–83 North St, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1ZA – 0273 820445)
Has been in existence since 1903. Its most recent campaigns have been to focus awareness on bats, snakes and toads and their individual needs. The society has also become involved with the Mountain Gorilla Project.



THE FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE
(43 Braichmelyn, Bethesda, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3RD)
Founded in 1973, its aims are to establish vegetarianism as a Christian way of life and unite believers of all religions or none in a way of life which hurts neither life nor the environment. The society have two excellent leaflets, one about the Bible and vegetarianism and another more general, but very hard hitting, one about animal abuse. Membership is open to all and there is no subscription fee but donations are always gratefully accepted. Leaflets are available on request and a SAE is much appreciated.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
(26–28 Underwood St, London – 071 490 1555)
Produced a leaflet highlighting ways of cutting down on electricity usage and have initiated a campaign to get householders to cut electricity consumption by 20% so as to reduce global warming. The society is stepping up its campaign against global warming and has produced an action poster showing how everyone can help. A card which people can carry with them at all times gives advice on how to help reduce greenhouse gases and a new leaflet explains the problems caused by global warming, including the fact that it will cause the extinction of millions of animals and plants.

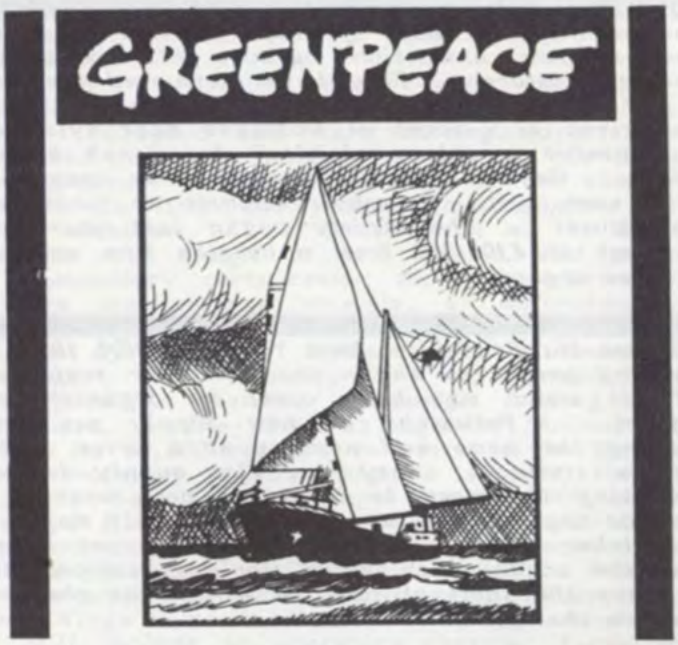
GREEK ANIMAL WELFARE FUND LIMITED



GREEK ANIMAL WELFARE FUND.
(11 Lower Barn Rd, Purley, Surrey CR8 1HY – 081 668 0548)
Their first fully equipped Mobile Clinic made its way to Greece in October, after many months of hard work raising the money to bring the project to completion. Still in need of funds, however, to keep the clinic going and to continue to support animal shelters in Greece. GAWF now has its own office in Athens.



GREEN PARTY ANIMAL RIGHTS WORKING GROUP
(22 Station Rd, Greenfield, Holywell, Clwyd CH8 7EL)
Passed a policy at its conference on the 24th September with the stated long term aim to eliminate the wholesale exploitation of other species, foster understanding of our interrelationship in the web of life and protect and promote natural habitat. The policy includes the active encouragement to reduce consumption of animal produce, a ban on the import/export of all furs, the outlawing of fur farms, a ban on importing ivory and whale oil, the phasing out of intensive farming including fish, to phase out animal experiments in 5 years with an immediate ban on cosmetic, weapons, LD50, Draize and experiments for me-too drugs, a total ban on dissection within 3 years, a ban on hunting with hounds, shooting and zoos.



GREENPEACE

(30-31 Islington Green, London N1 8XE)

Greenpeace is to prosecute a firm called Albright and Wilson, after harmful discharges of metals into the Irish Sea from its works in Cumbria exceeded the legal limit. In November three British Greenpeace protestors and their American guide were arrested and charged with trespassing after they entered a nuclear test sight in Nevada and held up a British test for two hours. Also in November Greenpeace demonstrators abseiled off Tower Bridge after the unfurling of a banner protesting against UK nuclear tests. They got through security checks by pretending that women members of the team were pregnant. Ten were charged with contravening Tower Bridge by-laws. Greenpeace also blocked a pipe owned by the Pilkington company which discharges effluent into the Mersey, and delivered 6 barrels of toxic effluent from the pipe to the main gates of their factory. In December activists in inflatable rafts prevented a Japanese ship from harpooning Minke whales off Antarctica.

HAPPIDOG PET FOODS

(Bridge End, Brownhill Lane, Longton, Preston, Lancashire PR4 4SJ - 0772 614952)

The vegetarian dog food makers now produce a complete puppy weaning and rearing food called Happipup, which can be fed to puppies from 2 to 3 weeks of age.

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

(PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY - 0602 590357)

Has now become a VAT registered, limited company and as such has many plans to further aid local hunt saboteur groups.

IDENTICHIP

(Animalcare Ltd, Common Rd, Dunnington, York YO1 5RU)

Most vets can now implant a micro-chip in animals to identify them if they are ever lost. The Identichip is housed in implant grade glass and has been used for many years in human implants. The chip is passive and doesn't need batteries and cannot break down. In addition to these benefits the fee also covers the animals for third party public liability insurance to the value of £1 million and there is a fixed reward payable to collection centres. Charges have to be met each year to keep the registration up to date and to cover the insurance. Please see Pro Dogs for further details.



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION

(32 Cambridge Rd, Girton, Cambridge CB3 7BR)

Has over 22 projects, including Cousin Island near the Seychelles which was purchased to protect the Seychelles Warbler and also protects rare turtles. The council publishes data books on the status of the worlds threatened birds and has a computerised databank.



THE INTERNATIONAL DONKEY PROTECTION TRUST

INTERNATIONAL DONKEY PROTECTION TRUST

(Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU - 0395 578222/513254)

With the help of the Spanish government the Trust is helping to improve conditions at donkey safaris in Tenerife and is setting up a code of practice. The Trust rescued a donkey called Blackie from a ritual killing at the Lenten festival. It is now safe in the sanctuary in Devon. To help combat the terrible problems in Mexico the Trust has purchased an ambulance, giving the vets access to markets in the more remote areas.

ILDAV

(International League of Doctors for the Abolition of Vivisection, Vernon Coleman, Lynmouth, Devon EX35 6EE)

Nurses are being urged to join the League following the launch of its European campaign against animal experiments.

JAPAN ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

(RMC House, Townmead Rd, London SW6 2RZ - 071 736 9306)

Started in 1954 in Tokyo and has been fighting since against the indifference to animal suffering in Japan. The branch in England raises funds and awareness of the situation in Japan.

LIVING LAND PROJECT

(122 Charles Barmy Crescent, Hulme, Manchester M15 5DW)

Aims to buy a smallholding anywhere in Britain where they can farm veganically, plant trees, create a wildlife garden and set up workshops. They also intend to recycle all their waste and to use alternative energy sources. It is also hoped that the holding would be an educational centre.

LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

(83-87 Union St, London SE1 1SG - 071 407 0979/ 6155)

Sponsored a 3 year scientific study of foxes in the Highlands of Scotland, at a cost of £85,000. The conclusion of the study is that the suspension of culling foxes does not mean that there is an increase in the fox population or any increase in the number of lambs deaths possibly attributed to foxes. The League hopes that this will persuade the government to end subsidies for the killing of foxes in Scotland and will also force the Forestry Commission to reassess its policy of killing foxes at the request of sheep farmers. 'Victim of Myth', the full report, is available from the League for £3 including p&p. LACS has purchased another 18 acres of land vital to protect deer from the Quantock Staghounds. This, in addition to the other land owned by the League, makes the area which the Staghounds can hunt that little bit smaller but also means that the hunt must avoid an even larger area of land because of the fear that their quarry will escape onto League land.

NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY

(Ravenside, 261 Goldhawk Rd, Hammersmith, London W12 9PE - 081 846 9777)

Moved to a new address which is much larger and has given the society the opportunity to expand its library and information centre. NAVS have also taken on extra staff in campaigns, membership, orders and accounts departments. The new reception area is to have a display of merchandise. The society has also opened a new shop in Birmingham called "The AD Shop". It was officially opened by patron Sinitta and accompanied by a fashion show. Every customer at the shop receives a leaflet with their purchase. The ground floor sells clothing, the first floor is for cruelty-free cosmetics and the second floor houses childrens wear and other goods such as stationery. The society is also launching a new range of merchandise. NAVS are the organisers of the World Day for Laboratory Animals march and rally on 27th April



NATIONAL CANINE DEFENCE LEAGUE

(1 Pratt Mews, London NW1 0AD)

A 'Lost Dog Pack' is available from the League which includes a special poster with room for a photo but small enough to go in a shop window. It also includes advice about options available when a dog is lost. The organisation has an affinity card in conjunction with the Royal Bank of Scotland - every card which is issued will earn a £7.50 donation for the League as well as a donation every time the card is used. There is also a free travel accident insurance of up to £50,000. Otherwise the card is just like a normal credit card. 1991 is the centenary year of the NCDL and a special logo has been produced. An extra effort is to be made to make this year that little bit more important for the NCDL and the dogs that they help.

OPERATION BUTTERFLY

Campaigning to save 7 rare British butterfly species from extinction because of development and agriculture. They have announced the first of a chain of sanctuaries. A Bucks landowner has given 12.5 acres of woodland near Aylesbury to conserve a colony of black hairstreak butterflies. He will not develop or spray crops and will work with a conservationist to safeguard its future. The society began last year with a grant of £300,000 from a Belgian firm and has 30 area organisers.

PETWATCH

(PO Box 16, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1DS)

Warning people to be on the alert for suspicious adverts which may be a cover for organised pet thieves. Petwatch can now supply pet discs bearing the name and address at a price of 50p and a stamp. They can also supply leaflets promoting the need to have all pets wearing a disc or tag of some sort. The group's magazine Petwatcher lists examples of known pet losses and the organization as a whole is campaigning to have the theft of cats recognized as the real problem that it is.



PEOPLES DISPENSARY FOR SICK ANIMALS

(Whitechapel Way, Priorslee, Telford, Shropshire TF2 9PQ - 0952 290999)

Founded in 1917 to provide free veterinary treatment for the owners of pets unable to afford the fees. By law the organization is unable to charge fees for its services, but donations are gratefully received. PDSA services do not include vaccination and neutering which are elective procedures for which people can plan and budget. In 1989 the PDSA spent about £10.8 million carrying out its work and now has 56 veterinary clinics around the country.

PRO DOGS

(Rocky Bank, 4 New Rd, Ditton, Kent ME20 6AD)

Warned in its magazine about the implant of microchips in dogs necks as some people are electro-magnetic sensitive and so it may be assumed that some dogs can be too. There is also opposition to tattooing for fears that stolen dogs may have the marks cut or burnt out. The society is backing an education campaign with recommendations that breeders should be made to accept responsibility for the puppies they breed. Pro dogs are also launching a campaign against the docking of spaniels' tails.

PUPPY WATCH

(PO Box 23, Neath, West Glamorgan SA11 1QP)

Formerly Puppy Watch Wales, their campaign now extends throughout the country. They are campaigning for immediate 'power of entry' for local authority inspectors or the RSPCA where illegal breeding or cruelty is suspected. A bill is hoped to go through in the next session incorporating this. A 15,000 signature petition was presented to the Kennel Club to encourage them not to register puppies from farms or commercial breeders.

RSPCA

(Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG - 0403 64181)

Launched a £30,000 Europe-wide campaign to curtail the transport of live animals for slaughter. Graphic and hard hitting adverts have appeared in many newspapers and on the London Underground. The 4 demands of the campaign are 1) To limit the journey to slaughter to 8 hours maximum, 2) A continuation of the British ban on the export of live horses and ponies, 3) Compulsory certification for all vehicles and drivers transporting animals, 4) Enforcement of the law relating to animal transport throughout Europe by properly trained and financed inspectors. The society had its annual 'don't give pets as presents' campaign leading up to Christmas. The RSPCA's magazine 'Animal Life' urges its 60,000 readers to write to the Environment Secretary asking him to support the EEC plan to ban leghold traps. An 18th century grade 2 listed barn is to be used as convalescent quarters for seals at the society's purpose built wildlife hospital. This new £1 million hospital, a conversion of farm buildings at East Winch, near Kings Lynn in Norfolk, will open next year. It will include an operating theatre, X-ray room and an intensive care unit. The hospital will be able to care for 50 seals at a time and about 3,000 other injured birds and mammals a year. The RSPCA sent a team of wildlife experts with special skills in treating animals contaminated by oil to Saudi Arabia following the oil pollution in the Gulf.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

(The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL)

Lodged an appeal to the European Commission against development of harmful tourist facilities in the Coto Donana, an important wildlife area and national park in SW Spain. In a report published in Brussels in November the RSPB stated that the Common Agricultural policy should be reformed so that farmers receiving subsidies would be required to protect the remaining wildlife habitat on their land. The society has also bought 272 acres of Stoborough Heath in Dorset to maintain its importance as a wildlife habitat and to encourage rare species.

SEA SHEPHERD CONSERVATION SOCIETY

(PO Box 5, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 2PY - 0784 254846)

Now the proud owners of a new sea going ship, bringing their fleet to two vessels. The new addition to the seaforce is a 95 foot, 106 ton patrol boat, the Edward Abbey. The ship is named to honour the late Edward Abbey who was an environmental writer and long-standing member of the Sea Shepherd. It was built in 1955 as a US coastal guard patrol boat. Her twin Detroit engines were installed new in 1978 and rebuilt in 1988. With a top speed of 25 knots the ship will give Sea Shepherd the freedom to pursue ecological bandits whose ability to outrun the Sea Shepherd 2 has been a cause of frustration. Working together the Edward Abbey will be able to slow down their target till the slower Sea Shepherd 2, with its reinforced hull, can shut down the target permanently. The new ship will carry a crew of 14. The UK's branch has a major inland campaign against Windsor Safari Park Dolphinaria, which it is picketing. Sea Shepherd also plan a number of actions directed against the Japanese, due to their massive involvement in marine life abuse.

Sea Turtle Survival



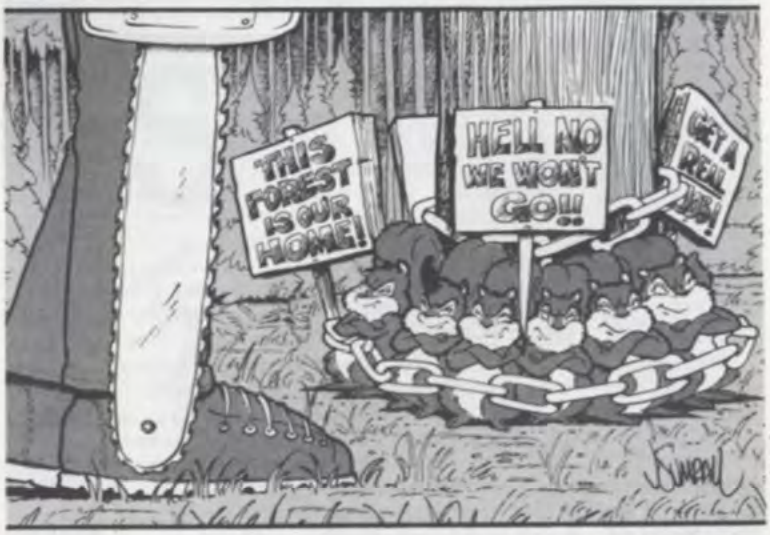
SEA TURTLE SURVIVAL

(PO Box 790, London SW16 3NJ - 081 764 9186)

Formed in 1990 to promote awareness of the plight of turtles throughout the world. Sea Turtle Survival is campaigning to save the threatened nesting beaches of the endangered Loggerhead Turtle. Comprising mainly of ex-volunteers from the turtle conservation programme run by the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece on the island of Zakynthos, the group aim to raise awareness in Britain of the threat expanding tourism poses to the turtles and their nesting beaches. Volunteers on the 1990 programme were confronted by gangs who carried out serious violent attacks on Sea Turtle Protection Society members, made death threats and sabotaged the group's work. Illegal development is taking place on beaches which have been designated 'protected' and the authorities take no action against those responsible. This year Sea Turtle Survival aim to highlight the illegal establishments so that tourists can boycott them and be provided with a simple list of dos and don'ts in order that the turtles are not disturbed. STS are campaigning for a Marine Park in Laganos Bay which they believe is the only thing that will ensure the future of the turtles in the Mediterranean. 80% of holidaymakers to the island are British.

THE TREE COUNCIL

Unveiled a tree warden scheme whereby trees across the country are to be protected by a network of volunteer wardens in parishes and communities. County Councils are being encouraged to find a volunteer in every single parish and community to fulfill the role. So far 30 councils have shown an interest and 100 wardens have been appointed. The Tree Council is a charity partly funded by the Department of the Environment.



Joe Sumrall



VEGAN SOCIETY

(7 Battle Rd, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 7AA - 0424 427393)

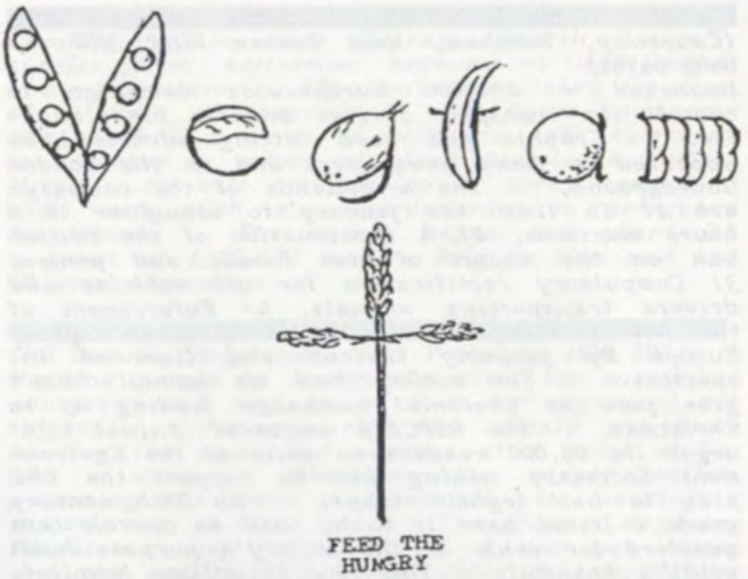
Produced a festive turkey leaflet at Christmas jointly with Chicken's Lib, CIWF and the Vegetarian Society (UK). Investigating microbiological testing, which uses animal products and is used in the testing of the majority of food and non-food items, including those which are labelled 'cruelty-free', and despite there being alternative tests available which do not use animal products. The society has been informed that Bonita Skin Care does not commission or perform microbiological tests at all. The Vegan Society council has ratified the use of its trade mark to the companies Crookes Healthcare, Mocatan and The Bio-D Company.



VEGETARIAN SOCIETY (UK)

(Parkdale, Dunham Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4QG - 061 928 0793)

The vegetarian message has been spread to many schools by the Society's Youth Education department and, following their success, the Vegetarian Society is launching a major campaign aimed at adults. The Society's cookery school is open to both vegetarians and non-veggies. Course brochures available on request VS merchandise includes The Vegetarian Handbook, £3.95, and The Vegetarian Travel Guide 1991, £5.50 - add £1.50 p&p per book, £2.50 for two or more. The Handbook is free to members, including non-vegetarians who may join as associates. The Society's Open Day and Garden Party is on Sunday 14th July this year, at its national headquarters. There will be stalls from various organizations, entertainments, food and drinks, a raffle with a first prize of £1,000 being drawn on the day, and much more.



VEGFAM

(The Sanctuary, Nr. Lydford, Okehampton, Devon EX20 4AL - 082 282 203)

To help Vegfam raise funds visitors can now stay for a self-catering holiday at their headquarters. Over the past 2 years over £20,000 has been donated for relief projects not involving the exploitation of animals.

WWF

(Panda House, Wayside Park, Catteshall Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR)

Fieldwork completed by the WWF has shown that there are only 70-150 Lowland Gorillas left in South East Nigeria. The WWF is putting together a long-term management plan to save the gorillas and their habitat. The British government is being lobbied to have tighter control on the export of ivory from Hong Kong. A joint petition by the WWF and Greenpeace collected 500,000 signatures to support the idea of having Antarctica as an international wildlife park and to stop mineral extraction The government has now stated that it has no objection to this proposal.

YOUNG INDIAN VEGETARIANS

(226 London Rd, West Croydon, Surrey CR0 2TF - 081 681 8884)

On 10th December the Society organised a programme at Greenwich Hindu Temple where Nipan Malde gave a talk about the spiritual aspects of vegetarianism, which was followed by a full vegetarian meal. On 22nd December the annual Christmas lunch was held with Bernard Weatherill as speaker.

Into the Blue

ZOO CHECK

(Cherry Tree Cottage, Coldharbour, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6HA - 0306 713431)

In conjunction with the Mail on Sunday the group organised the 'Into the Blue' campaign and acted as agents for Rocky the dolphin when he was moved to the world's first Dolphin Rescue, Retirement, Rehabilitation Centre where he will be professionaly cared for in over 100,000,000 gallons of crystal clear Caribbean water.

LOCAL GROUPS

ANIMAL AID (LONDON AREA)

(PO Box 254, London E5 8TB)

In November last year the group held a public meeting with speakers from CIWF and a vegan health shop. In February they held their second campaign conference, with stalls, literature and vegan food as well as speakers from BUAV, CIWF, LACS and the Vegetarian Society (UK).

ANIMAL RESCUE

(PO Box 8, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0FX)

Raising funds for vet and food bills for sick and abandoned animals and for campaign work. Co-ordinating and sponsoring 'The Liverpool Animal Meetings'. A meeting on 21st March invited both public and Merseyside animal rights campaigners and featured speakers from the Hunt Saboteurs Association, Liverpool Animal Rights Association, the Campaign to End Vivisection at Liverpool University and Badger Protection. The talks were illustrated with videos. This first meeting was a great success - over 100 people attended. The next meeting will be on Thursday 20th June 1991, at 7.30pm prompt, at Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane (Back of Littlewoods in Church St), Liverpool city centre. Again there will be speakers from a number of groups.

ANIMAL RIGHTS CAMBRIDGE

A demo was held outside a commercial turkey farm and at the same time members entered the farm buildings with cameras and videos. They had left by the time the police arrived. The demo outside was attended by the Reverend Tony Ruffel. The video is available to show at meetings and it was on show at the Co-ordinating Animal Welfare meeting held in Cambridge on January 13th. The group also held a protest outside Haverhill Meat Products, a pig abattoir which deals solely with Sainsbury's. The abattoir is said to kill 3,000 pigs a day. A fur dealer who came to a Cambridge hotel for a day, to renovate furs, only had bookings from animal rights activists and he went home at midday feeling rather cross. Meanwhile the rest of the group picketed the hotel and a fur coat was burnt symbolically. The group is campaigning against vivisection at Cambridge University. The aim of the campaign is to stop the experiments and have them replaced with videos that convey exactly the same information. The University Students Union has adopted a policy demanding the use of videos and pledges support for students who object to the use of animals in university courses. Following ARC campaigning, 50% of students have been walking out of some physiology demonstrations in disgust at the experiments being carried out. The group holds a weekly stall in the local market at which they are collecting signatures to present to the council asking for them to erect a memorial or plaque in memory of all the animals who have died or suffered in animal experimentation in the city. A third of the group's income is donated to the local hunt sab group. Early in February the group held a picket against Boots in conjunction with Cambridge University Animal Concern.

BOGNOR AND CHICHESTER ACTION FOR ANIMALS

In November the group had its eleventh demo outside a local fur shop in Rushington and collected 200 signatures for their petition. The shop owner has stated that he will not sell synthetic furs because they are not biodegradable. The group has also set up a Badger Protection Group for the area and the local Forestry Commission has given them permission to monitor setts on its land. To aid the badger protection work the group has bought a mini-bus and is seeking sponsors from groups and individuals to run the vehicle. The group held its first public meeting at the local college which featured a talk by an RSPCA Superintendent, illustrated by slides. The group has also been helping out on a local nature reserve and they are calling for a referendum to stop shooting of birds at Pagham Harbour Nature Reservation.

BOLTON AND DISTRICT ANIMAL RIGHTS

(PO Box 47, Bolton)

After the group organised letter writing and lobbying of councillors the council has banned circuses with animals and the giving of animals as prizes on council land.

[illegible]

Group members chained themselves across the entrance to Dover Docks in a bid to prevent lorries carrying live animals from entering the port. In October the group displayed anti live export banners to passengers on cross-channel ferries as they left Dover Docks, from dinghies manned by Sea Action, the marine section of CND.

BROMLEY ANIMAL DEFENCE GROUP

Held a demo against Gerry Cottle's circus on October 31st and are campaigning to ban circuses with animals in the borough.





Outside the Devil's Tower,
Liverpool University animal house

Photo: Liverpool Daily Post and Echo

CAMPAIGN TO END VIVISECTION AT LIVERPOOL UNI

(c/o Liverpool University Animal Action, 2 Bedford Street North, Liverpool L69 7BR)

Began their campaign in the autumn with a 24 hour vigil outside 'Devil's Tower', the ten storey windowless animal house at Liverpool University. In November wreaths were laid at the Psychology and Veterinary Science departments. The group is circulating a petition and has three leaflets on vivisection at the University. The group are holding a march and demo against Liverpool University Veterinary Research Centre at Leanurst on the Wirral (where much vivisection takes place) on 24th April, World Day for Laboratory Animals.

CARLISLE HUNT SABOTEURS

(PO Box 83, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 3AN)

Has its own leaflet which pictures a fox before and after a hunt. It also details the acts of a general hunt and asks for support and donations.

CARDIFF ANIMAL RIGHTS SOCIETY

(c/o Students Union Building, Park Place, Cardiff CF1)

Having weekly demos against the departments involved in vivisection at Cardiff University. This has resulted in the cancelling of lectures in the targeted departments when the demos are taking place. The group have requested to be shown around the animal labs to ensure that the guidelines are being enforced. They are also continuing with their anti-McDonalds campaign with fortnightly demos outside their premises in Cardiff's main shopping street.

CLAPHAM AND BATTERSEA ANIMAL RIGHTS

On May 4th the group will be staging a Cruelty-Free Afternoon at the Garfield Centre in Battersea where they will be selling 'cruelty-free' products and arranging for a fur amnesty and product swap.

CLEVELAND ACTION FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

(The Charity Shop, 32 Lowthian Rd, Hartlepool, Cleveland)

Produces a quarterly newsletter called 'Animal Action' which reports on national and local news and costs 75p. The group consists of four branches, in Hartlepool, Stockton, East Cleveland and Middlesborough, each with their own contact. Hartlepool has had regular campaign stalls and their first benefit gig. They hope to be helping out on the Flamingoland campaign this year. Stockton have had regular stalls as well and have leafleted the Stockton area. East Cleveland have had a series of Vegan Taste Ins which have proved very popular, as have their jumble sales. They have a regular stall in Redcar but are looking for other areas in which to hold stalls which up to now have only been leafleted. Middlesborough have had several library displays, the best being in Acklam, and have also done a few benefit gigs with the aid of a local band 'Spit the Pips'.

CLWYD ANIMAL AID

Had donated over £800 to the Animal Aid offices by October last year. The group does donate a small amount to local abandoned animal charities but all other funds raised go to the national organization.

CORNWALL ANIMAL RIGHTS

Arranged for a Christmas leaflet to be inserted in all editions of a local newspaper. The National Farmers Union was upset but the reporter who covered the story about it became vegetarian.

COVENTRY ANIMAL ALLIANCE

(Box 1, Wedge Bookshop, 13 High St, Coventry, Warwickshire)

Holds a stall in the city every Friday and have been receiving quite a lot of support from the public. The group held a fund raising gig in December and now have their own transport. They are trying to get compensation from the police after being arrested outside McDonalds in October last year.

DARTMOOR BADGERS PROTECTION LEAGUE

Campaigning against the proposed improvements to the A30 Honiton to Exeter Road which will destroy two of the finest badger setts in Devon - people are asked to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, Whitehall, London SW, and ask for the road to be redirected. The League is still in urgent need of more people to help with its badger sett patrols.

DEVON ANIMAL RIGHTS

(PO Box 79, Exeter, Devon EX2 9AR)

Taking their stalls to various events and have put on street theatre, organised a fur collection and burning. The group have also demonstrated against hunting and held a Living Without Cruelty exhibition.

DORSET AND BOURNEMOUTH ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP

Produced a leaflet explaining the salmonella problem of battery eggs and condemning the cruelty in battery farming. 1,000 of these leaflets have been posted or delivered to guest houses and hotels in the Bournemouth, Poole, Swanage and Weymouth area. The group is also distributing the London Greenpeace anti-McDonalds leaflet on most Saturdays as part of an ongoing campaign against the burger chain.

EAST LONDON ANIMAL RIGHTS

(PO Box 216, Forest Gate, London E7 9RB)

Held a public meeting in November last year about their vegetarian campaign. There are plans to put on a disco and benefit gig to raise funds.

EAST SUSSEX HARE PROTECTION

(PO Box 47, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0FT)

As the name suggests, the group has been set up to protect hares in East Sussex. It is believed to be the first of its kind in the country. Its main target is to be the little known Hailsham based Pevensey Marsh Beagles and seeks the disbandment of this hunt by a combination of leafletting and traditional hunt sabbing tactics. The group has already brought hounds to a standstill on two occasions. The groups has two black and white photos of this hunt available for media purposes and an excellent leaflet focusing on this hunt.

ESSEX SOUTH AND SOUTHEND RSPCA BRANCH

One of the RSPCA's most active branches, they give special emphasis to rehoming, campaigning, fundraising and education. They have recently persuaded Castle Point District Council to ban animal circuses from its land and have picketed Gerry Cottle's circus. One of the two remaining fur outlets in Southend has a closing down sale and members are outside the other shop every other Saturday with banners, leaflets and a petition. No healthy animal is put down by the branch and they employ a rehoming co-ordinator. Vegetarianism is promoted within the branch. The group has a successful shop in Southend.

FLAMINGO LAND DOLPHIN CAMPAIGN

(c/o MDC, PO Box 63, Lancaster LA1 4GD)

Campaigning to close the dolphin pool at Flamingo Land where 13 dolphins have died in the past 14 years - 5 in one incident all within 48 hours. Flamingo Land needs permission to increase the size of their pool and the group is opposing this with demonstrations and is planning a national demo in the spring.

FUR FREE SHEFFIELD CAMPAIGN

Held a demo outside the Rotherham Moathouse Hotel in November last year, wearing skeleton masks and bloodied fur coats - the hotel was staging an exhibition by Glyn and Leinhardt Furriers. This company used to have a fur shop in Sheffield but it closed due to lack of demand. Held demonstrations outside Stella Furriers.



HACKNEY AND ISLINGTON ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP

(Box 17, Sunpower, 198 Blackstock Rd, London N5)

After the group's campaign which helped to close down the Hudson Bay fur company in this country, the group moved on to the last fur shop in its area, Maldor Furs in the Kingsland Road. They began with demos every Saturday and had to endure verbal and physical threats from the proprietor and intimidation from the police. The group arranged a meeting with a Chief Inspector who told them that if they continued the demonstrations they would be arrested. The group held a final demo where a wreath was laid outside the shop. However, the group had the last laugh because later on the shop stopped selling furs and went over to electrical goods. Demos have also been held outside Boots, Kentucky Fried Chicken and outside an Imperial Cancer Research Fund charity shop which opened in November last year. On 4th February this year the group held a public meeting entitled 'Animal Rights and Gay Politics'. The speaker was Peter Tatchell, a leading campaigner for gay rights. The aim of the meeting was to make clear the meaning of AIDS research and to encourage the gay community to speak out against it. A video was shown on the use of monkeys in hepatitis and AIDS research. About 50 people attended.

HAVERING ACTION FOR ANIMALS

On December 22nd last year the group held a Christmas Without Cruelty exhibition in Romford with vegan food, 'cruelty-free' toiletries, merchandise and information. Prior to the event the group did a lot of leafleting to advertise it. Also that month the group went carol singing to raise money for a local dog sanctuary.

HEREFORD ANIMAL RIGHTS

Held a small demo against an animal circus and received good local media coverage. They also collected £300 to help fight badger baiting.

HERTFORDSHIRE ANIMAL RIGHTS CHARTER CAMPAIGN

(PO Box 66, Broxbourne, Herts, EN10 6LU - 0426 911785 - 24 hour Voicebank)

Distributed 20,000 leaflets advertising a series of ten public meetings which have been attended by a total of 300 people. 10,000 of the group's campaign leaflet have gone out and their membership has risen to 300 people. Herts County Council are receiving up to 150 protest cards every week, which have been produced by the group, and the petition is well on course for their target of 10,000 signatures, which would make it the second biggest petition ever received by the council, the largest being a 25,000 signature petition handed in in 1983 demanding an end to bloodsports. The group has had over 40 local newspaper reports across Herts since July last year, as well as radio coverage. This has led to a flood of enquiries and a number of schools have asked for speakers for older pupils. An average of 2-3 stalls are held each week in various Herts towns with 7 stalls in 7 days being held in an anti-cubbing week of action, with children dressed up in fox cub masks, again with much media interest. The Campaign now comprises of about a dozen animal rights/welfare groups and has established valuable links between groups which had previously worked alone. Just before Christmas the Campaign held three street stalls concentrating on bloodsports, to counteract the Boxing Day publicity that hunts get. The result was over 2,000 new signatures and £700 in donations. The group has produced its own leaflet about bloodsports and their local hunt the Enfield Chace - the leaflet was headed "This Boxing Day beware of men in red coats.....they may not be Father Christmas".

HOUNSLOW AND TWICKENHAM ANIMAL DEFENCE GROUP

Formed in January and advertised extensively for members and attended a car boot sale to raise funds. They plan to hold stalls and produce a newsletter as well as having a small exhibition in Hounslow library. The group has adopted a seal at a sanctuary in Cornwall and they pay £200 for its upkeep each year.

ISLE OF WIGHT PRESERVATION AND ACTION GROUP

The Winter edition of the group's 'Preserve' magazine includes articles on nuclear weapons, the role of Paganism in the AR movement, the trade in wild-caught birds and kangaroo protection, as well as vegan recipes, poems and subscribers' letters.

KIDDERMINSTER ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP

Held a successful evening in the local town hall. Over 50 people attended. The aim of the evening was to promote the vegetarian campaign of Animal Aid. One of the members of the audience was the district nurse, who admitted that all the health points made were absolutely true.

LAKELAND ANIMAL AID

(PO Box 83, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 3AN)

The group held a demo outside McDonalds in Carlisle which received extensive press coverage. McDonalds employees, however, were told by the Council Town Centre Warden that they could not hand out their own leaflets because they had not obtained permission, whereas the Animal Aid group had previously applied for permission. A fur amnesty was held again in Carlisle in October last year with the stated aim of making the city fur free. The ten furs that were collected were passed on to Lynx and hundreds of signatures were collected on a petition against Swallow Hill Top Hotel which holds leather and fur sales. The group has produced its own general leaflet which covers information about the use of animals for food, entertainment, vivisection and fur. It also gives advice for people who want to adopt a more humane lifestyle.

Evening News and Star

Fur-free hopes



LANCASTER ANIMAL RIGHTS

(Students Union Building, Bailrigg, Lancaster University, Lancaster, Lancashire)

In October last year the group took part in a demonstration at a McDonalds in Stoke-on-Trent, organised in conjunction with Manchester Animal Protection Group and Stoke Animal Rights, and organised a street theatre outside Lancaster McDonalds. Street theatre also featured in a campaign against L'Oreal, particularly the continued sale of L'Oreal products on campus, along with leafleting and a petition. The group took a minibus down to the National Trust AGM in Llandudno to add their voices to the debate on whether to ban hunting on NT land. A Christmas Without Cruelty Fayre was held with 'cruelty-free' cosmetics, books and merchandise and videos and speakers. A 'Free Range Week' has been organised, urging everyone on campus to eat only free-range eggs in an effort to persuade the university caterers to use only free-range eggs in the meals.

LIVERPOOL ANIMAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

(PO Box 8, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0DX)

A campaign against dissection has been launched. Petitions are available and the intention is to deliver several thousand signatures to the county council calling for a ban. On 21st March the group took part in the first of a series of animal rights meetings in Liverpool - see 'Animal Rescue'.

LONDON VEGANS

Produces a very useful listing of events of interest to vegans in the London area, sent free to subscribers.

LOWESTOFT AND DISTRICT ANIMAL AID

(PO Box 22, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 8LA)

In November the group held a stall in the town followed by a meeting in a room in the local library for interested young people, in order to gain new recruits for their youth group. The youth group held a stall at the Lowestoft Animal Charities Christmas Fayre to raise money for animal rescue and is also writing to schools in the area to drum up more membership. The main group held a totally vegan Christmas cookery demo on December 7th.

MIDDLESEX ANIMAL RIGHTS

Held a vigil outside Mill Hill vivisection labs on Christmas afternoon and laid a wreath for the animals inside.

NEW FOREST ANIMAL PROTECTION GROUP

(PO Box 45, Ringwood, Hants - 0425 621671)

The group's petition was handed in to the Forestry Commission in the new year. Members have been sabotaging the New Forest Foxhounds with many successes in stopping the digging out of foxes and a general decline in the number of kills by the hunt.

NORTHERN IRELAND ETHICAL RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

(Students Union, University of Ulster, Jordanstown Campus, Shore Rd, Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland)

Has been campaigning to have all donations made to the Queens students union rag week given to only ethical charities and has been leafleting with a list of ethical charities.

NORWICH ANIMALS CHARTER

(PO Box 30, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 4DT)

A street collection for animal rescue raised over £350. Over £100 has been raised for the youth group. Plans have been made for a two week exhibition at the local library.



Demonstration held by the Manchester Animal Protection Group in December last year against Boots' use of beagles in experiments

MANCHESTER ANIMAL PROTECTION GROUP

(One World Centre, 13 Paton St, Manchester 1)

Staging a day of action against vivisection and against Manchester Medical School on Saturday 8th June. It will start with a march from Platt Fields (assemble 11am) to Albert Square where there will be a short rally. An exhibition with stalls will follow in the Town Hall where vegan refreshments will be served. The day will end with a Social Evening with Disco. A large number of marchers are required, wearing black if possible. Contact 061 225 2073 for further details. On December 8th last year the group held a Christmas Fair with information and vegan food and it was well attended. The group launched a 'don't buy pets for Christmas presents' campaign, to continue on after Christmas. A leaflet produced for the campaign urges people to give homes to animals from sanctuaries rather than buying them from kennels, pet shops or breeders. Several demos have been held against circuses which have visited the area including Gandeys, Starr and the Hungarian State Circus. The group supported pickets outside Morecambe Marineland. A successful demonstration against Boots' use of animals in experiments involved a coffin and activists dressed as beagles. An open day at Hyline rabbit farm, which breeds for meat, vivisection and the pet trade, was disrupted by a protest demo. In a joint action with Students Campaign for Animal Rights, a halal poultry slaughter unit, a knackers yard and a pig farm were inspected with the attendance of a BBC TV crew who used the footage obtained in a 'Reportage' programme in the new year. The video film was presented to Richard Body MP to use to promote his Pig Husbandry Bill. The Environmental Health Board are now investigating all three premises. The group's anti-fur pickets have been a great success and they have had over 100 fur coats handed in to them.

NUNEATON ANIMAL CONCERN

Looking for more members. The group meets every Tuesday evening at the WRVS, Newtown Rd, (near the Bus Station) in Nuneaton, between 7 and 9pm. The group holds an information stall in the town centre and has also organised a debate at the local library. Seven members dressed up as a bear, dog, cat, elephant, polar bear, chicken and gorilla and went collecting, raising £243, part of which was donated to a local animal sanctuary. On 15th December a benefit gig with three bands was held to raise funds.

ROSS ANIMAL RIGHTS

Have held demos at several local hunt balls. They have also held a jumble sale with the proceeds going to an animal sanctuary and they are planning sponsored walks to help the local Badger Group fit alarms to setts. Members attended an all week vigil in protest at animal experiments at Bristol University, raising over £600.

ST. ALBANS BRANCH VS(UK)

Organising an 'Animals and Environment Fair' at the Apple Market, Covent Garden, London, on Sunday 12th May from 9am to 6pm.

SKEGNESS ANIMAL AID

Held a talk and showed a film at a local youth club. Group members are touring local schools to give talks on vivisection, vegetarianism etc. Members foster dogs until they are found permanent homes.

SOUTHERN YORKSHIRE END BLOODSPORTS CAMPAIGN

Leaflets villages where hunts meet and monitors hunts and their members for any overlap into unlawful bloodsports. The group has numerous door to door collections and gives many talks.

SOUTH DEVON ANIMAL RIGHTS

A campaign against the Christmas slaughter of turkeys went well. The group are also leafleting branches of Boots.

SHEFFIELD CAMPAIGN FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

(PO Box 407, Sheffield S1 1ED)

Held a stall at the Derbyshire Peace Federation Conference. A demo was held outside McDonalds with members dressed as Ronald McMurderburger and Daisy the cow. The demo was such a hit that the group ran out of leaflets. The group picketed a new Imperial Cancer Research Fund charity shop when it opened in the town. They also demonstrated outside the Hungarian State Circus which had an amazingly low attendance and almost certainly made a loss. A delegation from the group was invited to witness a performance and go backstage. The group's large and well packed newsletter is being produced quarterly. The group goes hunt sabbing during the season and at the beginning of the grouse shooting season they managed to stop one shoot completely. They closed down the last fur shop in Sheffield with demos, leaflets, postcards and T-shirts. The group are currently targeting a fur shop outside of Sheffield run by a Harry Fish. During the first demonstration the shop shut up for the day. A leafleting session was held outside Chatsworth Game Fair, a stall was held at the local Green Fair, two performances of Fosset's circus were picketed in October last year and the group also attended a demo in Newcastle against Proctor and Gamble. Group members talked to Robin Smith of the BUAV about their directive to groups not to demonstrate against cancer research charity shops and their threat to withdraw support from groups that do. The group celebrated the fact that the city is now 'Fur-Free' with a demo in which they dressed as undertakers and carried a coffin to the sound of funeral music. The group has travelled further afield, taking their stalls to other towns and they picketed a circus in Rotherham. They are also campaigning against a local kennels where the conditions are appalling. At the end of November they held a stall with street theatre in which one member dressed up as a turkey.



SOUTH HUMBERSIDE ANIMAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

(PO Box 6, Scunthorpe, South Humberside DE17 1HW)

On November 18th the group held a vegetarian afternoon with a vegetarian food tasting session and various videos.

SOUTH LONDON ANIMAL AID

(PO Box 594, London SW9 8QG)

Campaigning to persuade Wandsworth Council to ban circuses with animals from council land resulted on 17th October last year in a full ban on circuses with wild animals. The group held a Christmas Without Cruelty Fair and attractions included demonstrations on vegetarian cookery and 'cruelty-free' make-up, videos and speakers. A Green Santa gave out 'cruelty-free' gifts. There were over 40 stalls and an estimated 1,500 visitors turned up. The group plans a similar event for this year. They also held a Whistle Blowers demo outside St. George's Hospital, Tooting, where Greyhounds, cats, ferrets and other animals are experimented on.

SOUTH MIDLANDS ANIMAL AID

(3c Hanover St, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 7JH - 0527 73793)

Running a 'Meat-Out' campaign aimed at schools and youth groups and has been getting people to be sponsored to go vegetarian for a day with all funds going to Vegfam. Many schools have taken up the campaign and allowed the group to address their assemblies. The group has also been involved in the L'Oreal campaign and as a result many hairdressers have stopped stocking L'Oreal products. Complaints to the local council about fly-posting by Jay Millers circus bore fruit and the circus were forced to either remove the posters or pay the council to have it done. The group is trying to get suede and leather sales on Sundays stopped under the Sunday trading laws.

STEVENAGE ANIMAL RIGHTS

(Box 6, Bowes Lyon House, St George's Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1XY)

Supporting the BUAV's charities campaign and had two street collections for them. On 31st October last year the group held a demo and leafleting session outside the conference centre where Glaxo were holding their AGM. Another demo was held outside Glaxo on 31st December. The Centre is set to open in one year's time. A demo is being held there every first Sunday of the month and a petition is being gathered. The group has expanded by amalgamating with Broxbourne Animal Rights. This move is aimed at strengthening the group's power in pulling more active members and funds into one central pool. The group's constitution remains unchanged and the pace of the campaign against Glaxo is to be stepped up. A national demo and march is to be held outside Glaxo on June 2nd - please write to the group for further details.

SUFFOLK ANIMAL DEFENCE

A new group, formed in August last year. Members have attended demonstrations at Huntingdon Research centre and Interfauna lab animal suppliers and went to the Perrycroft demo in September last year. Stalls are held in Bury St Edmonds and Newmarket on a regular basis. The group has also been supplying schools with information on all forms of animal abuse. Projects for this summer include a campaign against Greece and Spain, aimed at alerting tourists to the cruelty of bull-fighting, fiestas etc. etc.

SURREY ANIMAL CONCERN

This new group held a sponsored fast which raised over £300 which will be used to produce posters and leaflets

SWINDON ANIMAL WELFARE ALLIANCE

(PO Box 134, Swindon, Wilts SN2 3AF)

Formerly Swindon Animal Rights Group. In October last year the group complained to the local council about illegal advertising by Chipperfield Brothers Circus. Although the council admitted that the flyposting was illegal they refused to prosecute so the group has threatened to do their own flyposting next to any circus posters which appear in the future and they have pledged to take out a private prosecution against the circus if the council still refuses to act.

WEYMOUTH ANIMAL WELARE

Appealed for incubators to warm hundreds of hedgehogs who, because they were born late last summer, cannot survive hibernation due to lack of weight.

WINCHESTER ANIMAL CONCERN

Held a protest outside the local hunt ball and also a well attended demo against Froxfield Farms which breed animals for vivisection labs.

WOLVES HUNT SABS

(Box H, c/o Students Union, Wolverhampton Poly, Wolverhampton)

Held a benefit gig with the groups 'Contempt' and 'Anorexia' playing and raised over £170.

WORCESTER ANIMAL RIGHTS

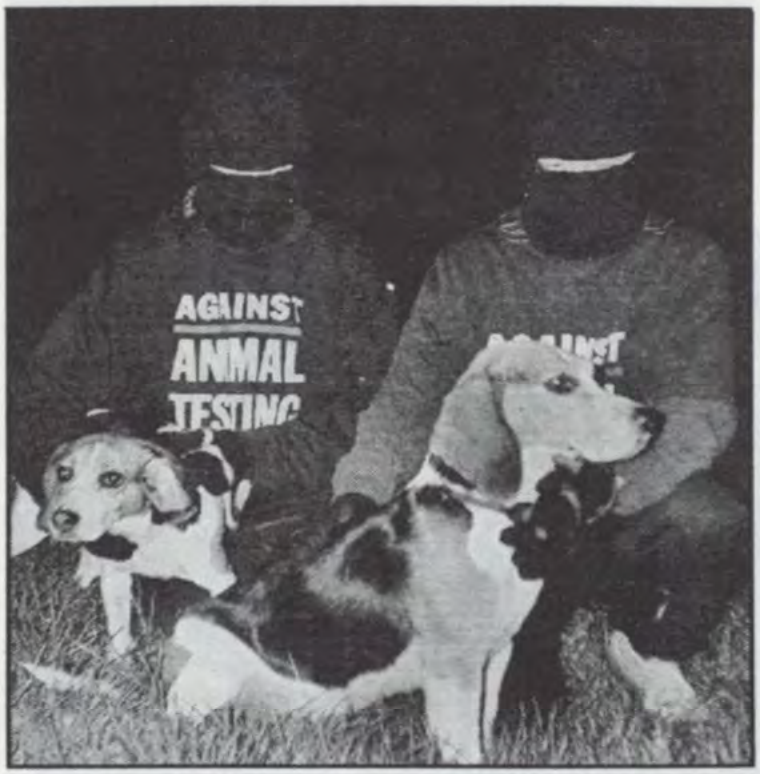
Went carol singing at Christmas to raise money for humane research.



Protesters outside the Royal Smithfield Show in London



THE ALF STRIKES



Western Daily Press

AVON

In late November the Bristol University Laboratory in Langford, near Weston, was raided and ten beagles were rescued. A spokesperson for the activists, talking to the press, said that all the dogs showed signs of mistreatment and one in particular had numerous scars which had not healed, where it had been used for experiments. The laboratory was raided 3 years ago when three cats were rescued.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

At the end of January three butchers had their shop windows smashed in Newport Pagnell, causing £8,000 worth of damage - they were Dewhursts, Co-op and Douglas butcher shops.



CHESHIRE

An ALF raid on Wises Farm, Parkfield, Normansheath, resulted in twenty chickens being liberated and two vans in the farm yard having their tyres slashed and windscreens smashed. Slogans were painted on the vans. A caller to the local press stated that the liberated hens had been taken to good, safe homes. The local spokesman of the National Farmers Union said that if these raids continued then 'Farm Watch' schemes would possibly have to be introduced. On 25th January the headquarters of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (a nonsensical name if ever there was one) was the target of an incendiary attack. Three incendiary devices were placed in three separate buildings at the offices at Marford Hill, Rossett. Thousands of pounds of damage was caused by the fire and a wooden storage shed and a caravan were also damaged. Fire engines took over an hour to control the fire. A spokesperson for the activists, talking to a local paper, said "The BASC is a public relations exercise for the blood junkies who are addicted to hunting. Members of the association wander around the country shooting animals and indulging in blood lust. The headquarters is a justifiable target. We are a little disappointed that more damage had not been done - we will have to go back within the next 5 years and finish the job".

CUMBRIA

Between Christmas and the New Year three butchers had their shop windows smashed. One, called Hird's, lost two windows and it was the second time that this shop had been targeted.

DEVON

The head office of Shooting News and monthly Sporting Dog, based at Tavistock Industrial Estate, was badly damaged in an arson attack causing over £50,000 worth of damage. This action was carried out on the morning of 16th January. Two fire crews had to be called to the scene of the fire which melted computers and destroyed the building's asbestos roof.

EAST SUSSEX

In the early hours of October 3rd, ALF activists liberated fifty hens from appalling conditions, some of the worst that the experienced activists had ever seen. The raid took place at a battery unit in Polegate. The hens are now in safe hands. The exterior of the unit was daubed with "ALF", "Chicken Liberation" and "Poultry Belsen". Four vans belonging to the farm were also attacked with paint stripper and etching fluid and sprayed with "ALF" and that

ARSON ATTACK ON BASC's HQ



Left: Firemen fight the blaze at the British Association for Shooting and Conservation headquarters. Thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused Photo: Shooting Times and Country magazine 7/2/91

good old favourite, "SCUM", in a tasteless luminous orange coloured paint. A hoax bomb call to McDonalds in Terminus Road, Eastbourne, on the 18th October, caused the premises to be evacuated. During November a butcher's van in Hastings was paintstrippered and etching fluid was used on its windows. Etching fluid was also poured over two butchers' windows and a door - one of the shops was due to be newly opened the following day. Boots in Hastings also received the same treatment. Threats were sent to developers SNW Homes and their plant hire contractors because of their plans to evict/ bulldoze a badger sett in order to build houses on a site in Hastings. In early December as part of a campaign covering the entire South East, shops which sold L'Oreal products were warned through newspapers that some of this company's products had been contaminated with oil or paint stripper. Examples were sent to the newspapers in question and towns mentioned were Brighton and Eastbourne, as well as London, Croydon, Dover and Folkestone. Pheasant pens near Bodle Street were destroyed. In St. Leonards-on-Sea in mid January three butchers' shops and a fishmonger's shop were decorated with "ALF" etchings and at Bexhill-on-Sea two vans belonging to 'Gunns' butchers were paint stripped, glass etched, had their windscreen wipers snapped off and their tyres slashed. A press release said that "ALF activists caused untold damage. The campaign of economic sabotage aims to fight back of behalf of the animals!" During the early hours of Friday 11th January ALF activists broke into the offices at Egypt Farm, Cowbeech. This company supplies chickens and pigs to 'Ross Foods (sic) UK Ltd'. Essential breeding records, accounts and wage books were taken from filing cabinets relating to the Farm's broiler units and dry sow stalls. Newly delivered pieces of hardware and drugs were also taken and later destroyed along with the accounts and wage books, all of which the activists had great pleasure in burning. Extensive damage was caused by a covering of symbolic red paint over everything inside both offices. "The ALF is watching and there's no place to hide" was daubed on the outside of the units, along with other ALF slogans. The press release finished with "Such attacks against this barbaric form of meat production is on the increase and will not end until these concentration camps of pain and misery on our fellow creatures have finally ceased. This was an act of love - not violence". On the morning of January 14th Mr Errey, Master and Huntsman for the Kent and Sussex Mink Hounds, woke to find both his hound van and car with ALF slogans, written in paint stripper, on them. All windows had been etched and the tyres were slashed. Over recent years Errey has been treated to several visits from the ALF, usually bearing gifts such as incendiary devices. In the early hours of Saturday 18th January activists broke into battery units belonging to a farm on the A21, only 2½ miles from Hastings. In the raid thirty-eight chickens were liberated from appalling conditions - the activists found cages 3ft by 1.5ft and four hens crammed into each. All the rescued hens are now in loving homes where they are able to spread their wings, walk and experience all their natural instincts which they had been so cruelly denied just for eggs and profit. In late January the windows of Dewhursts and Hays, the bacon shop in Hastings, had their windows etched with "ALF".

HAMPSHIRE

In November a statue of a greyhound, which commemorated the dog 'Master McGrath', which won the Waterloo Cup three times, was stolen from Pennington House near Lymington. It was worth between £5,000 and £10,000. The chairman of the Northern Ireland region of the BFSS was planning to move the statue to Ireland, because of which the Belfast ALF had already threatened to destroy it. On 16th December a pony and four guinea fowls were rescued from the New Forest after being found kept in appallingly cramped conditions - no water and severely malnourished. The pony was unable to bend her legs due to continual confinement in the tiny shed where they were found. The five animals are all now safe and well.

HERTFORDSHIRE

ALF Free Prisoners of Cell Block H! In the early hours of Tuesday 30th October Ware College was raided and a variety of animals were rescued from the animals unit in Block H. All the animals were destined for dissection and included four guinea pigs, six gerbils, two British toads, two salamanders, four tarantula spiders, one Xenopus frog, a cage of locusts and a cage of stick insects. They are all now in good homes. Many of the animals were in poor condition, the guinea pigs had claws so overgrown they could barely walk. Slogans were painted on the premises and the activists promised further action if the college continues its practice of dissection.

KENT

In early December L'Oreal products which had been contaminated with either oil or paint stripper were sent to a number of papers in Kent. The press release that accompanied them claimed that L'Oreal products in Dover and Folkestone, as well as London, Croydon, Brighton and Eastbourne, had been tampered with in this way. This resulted in shops all over the South East checking their stock. In Whitstable on December 7th the newly decorated Cancer Research collection mine was decorated again, this time with paint stripper. On 20th and 25th December, also in Whitstable, butchers' shop windows were treated with etching fluid. On 30th December the Cancer Research charity shop had its windows, including a large bow window, etched, and on the 6th January a butcher's shop window was smashed. At the beginning of January, after a warning was made to Herne Bay Library that turkeys in the local CRS shop had been poisoned, the entire stock of frozen birds were removed from the shelves of both stores. Butchers' shops in and around Maidstone have had windows smashed frequently over recent months.



Left: Some of the prisoners rescued from cell block H at Ware College in Hertfordshire. Photo: ALF

LANCASHIRE

On January 10th activists broke into the laboratory at Lancashire Polytechnic in Preston and liberated a hundred and six mice, forty-three doves, eleven rats, two rabbits and a guinea pig. Documents were also taken in the raid. The liberators entered through a skylight in the roof and then had to saw through bars in the ceiling. Five sacks of documents were taken from a filing cabinet. A spokesperson for the group told the press that the letters and addresses obtained from the documents would be "utilised to the full. The documents taken have given us a list of targets to keep ALF activists in the North West busy for a long time. ALF are taking the problems animal abusers increasingly face to their doorsteps". The university claimed that an animal was killed by being trodden on in the raid. But as the saying goes, those who do not hesitate to vivisect do not hesitate to lie about it. In fact the animal was found already dead when the activists entered the building. One of the rescued mice turned out to be pregnant.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Our hearts go out to the poor butcher who has been having his windows smashed about four times a week in Nuneaton. And to add insult to injury his VW Golf was set on fire. Those with good memories will recall that VW Golfs appear to be a favourite with animal abusers, and animal activists. Most other butchers and fishing shops in Nuneaton have also come under attack, not wishing them to feel left out. On 15th November twenty premises had their windows smashed and red paint thrown in onto equipment. On Saturday 8th December a group of activists ran through the Pathology and Pharmacology departments at Coventry Polytechnic and removed experiment reports that students had done in an exam.

LONDON

On September 15th McDonalds in Upper Norwood had its windows etched. This branch has now had to replace its windows four times because of attacks and they have gone to the expense of fitting a surveillance camera above the entrance. A week later a butcher's shop in the same area had its windows etched. In two separate raids in mid October two goats were rescued from fields in Burnt Oak from which they were destined to go to slaughter. Both goats are now in safe hands. One of the goats was held on ground owned by St. Alphage Church. After the raid four members of the local press who reported the action were arrested and questioned by the police. After being on police bail for a while charges have been set. The Editor of the Edgeware and Mill Hill Times and the Edgeware District Editor have both been charged with conspiracy to theft. The reporter and the chief photographer have both been charged with conspiracy to theft and also theft and criminal damage. In early December shops in London and Croydon were warned through the press that L'Oreal products had been contaminated with oil or paint stripper, as part of a campaign covering the South East.



Above: ALF activists inside Lancashire Poly
Photo: ALF

GREATER MANCHESTER

On Friday 12th October the ALF raided the offices of Bolton Poultry Products in Moncrieffe Street, Bolton. Sacks of documents were removed, including staff details and poultry slaughter information. Before leaving, incendiary devices were primed and laid. The devices ignited and wrecked the office. The group promised that the company would be a regular target all the while they continue their vile trade. They also threatened that information gathered in the raid about other businesses connected to the chicken industry will be given full attention. One of the documents taken in the raid was an invoice from a security company for a mobile security patrol service to visit Bolton Poultry Products three times a night. A fat lot of good that did them. Also in October, in Bury and Bolton, nine butchers' windows were catapulted. On November 12th twelve tyres of vehicles owned by Holcombe Hunt member John Pilkington were stabbed and on the same day in Bolton twelve windows of four Boots shops were smashed and in Heywood the locks of Boots were superglued. In the same month the branch of Boots in Crumpsell had its shutters painted with the natty slogan "Boots Butchers Beagles", and two butchers had their windows and doors smashed. All the windows and doors of the Boots in Shaw, Oldham and Heywood were etched and three butchers in Bolton had their windows smashed. A neglected rabbit in Rochdale was rescued, hutch and all, from a garden. In December at Littleborough, Rochdale, three lurchers were taken from a badger baiter and hare courser. They are now in good homes. In the same month three large windows of two butchers were smashed in Chorlton, and in Radcliffe in Bury the windows and doors of the Boots branch there were etched, and nineteen other shop windows were broken. In January a 54 seater coach belonging to the Rocket Angling Club went up like a rocket when it had petrol poured over it and was set alight. The coach was totally wrecked. The club secretary said "It's a big blow to the club. We used the coach regularly for social outings and we'd done quite a lot of work inside, installing tables".

MERSEYSIDE

Someone was evidently given some superglue for Christmas. On Christmas Eve Bootle butcher A. Watson had his shop locks superglued. the psychology department at Liverpool University had its locks superglued, a halal butcher's shop in Myrtle Parade had its padlock superglued, Farmer Arthurs egg merchants were superglued and a meat delivery van in Anfield had its locks superglued, as well as all its tyres punctured. These actions were the lead item in the local news. Later in December nine windows in Liverpool were smashed, three of which were Boots.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

In mid October fifteen butchers' shop windows were smashed in one night in Northampton and two days later another six shops were attacked, including two Dewhursts, Trotters Butchers and Graham Butchers. This latter shop was damaged in the raid a couple of days before and the window had not yet been repaired so the activists smashed the reinforced front door. This shop has been damaged about seven times over the past five years. In November, again in Northampton, all the windows and doors of two Boots branches and a butcher's were etched. The locks of a fish and poultry shop and the butchers' training centre had locks glued. Numerous butchers' windows were smashed and slogans painted. A Cancer Research advert was destroyed. A hen in a cage in a garden centre was rescued and a greyhound was taken from some coursers who were caught in the act. Later in November fifteen shop windows in Northampton were smashed and, deciding that they'd hitherto been too subtle, activists went to two branches of Boots with a sledgehammer. Over Christmas seven butchers, two McDonalds and one Burger Bar were given the same treatment. During January activists smashed one hundred and twenty shop windows in Northampton, including World of Leather, Boots and numerous butchers, not to mention poor old Graham the Butcher again. Also in January activists painted "Hounds Off Our Wildlife" and "ALF" in 3 ft high words on the walls of Earl Spencer's Althorp Estate. The Pytchley Hunt holds its annual meet at the stately home. Workers on the estate took an entire day cleaning the paint off the wall, which runs alongside the A428 main road between Rugby and Northampton.

NORTH YORKSHIRE

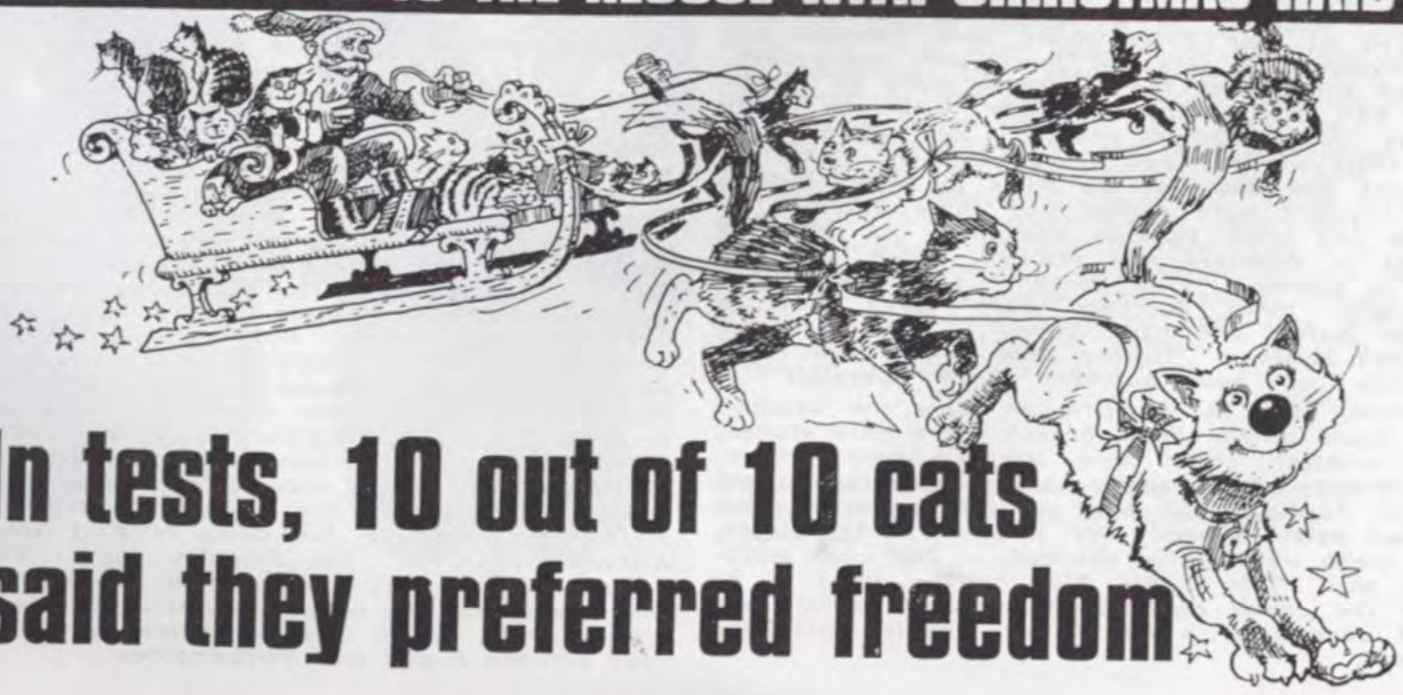
The ALF group have been running a campaign against Whiteheads furriers of Montpelier and the shop has been making a real 'killing' with its farcical 'Fur Clearance Sale' since they announced the closure of its fur department in March last year. The shop is still selling furs and the windows are boarded up at nights. Undeterred the group continued to take actions. On 17th November one of the shop's directors was foolish enough to leave his car at the rear of the shop and activists took full advantage of this by drenching it in yellow paint and slashing all the tyres. On 1st December the same director left his car parked outside his house and again all the tyres were slashed. On the 7th an attempt to penetrate the boards of the shop's windows with a crossbow bolt failed so the windows were smashed by driving a pick-axe through the boarding. On the 20th the most daring attack took place at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. It was dark but the shop was still open and there were people about shopping. A lone activist put a hammer through a window and then hot-footed it away leaving passers-by speechless. Ironically one of the directors names is Hammer, giving local papers plenty of scope for corny headlines. The group has pledged to keep up its attacks till the shop is a fur free zone. On New Years Eve four butchers plate glass windows in Harrogate were smashed, causing between £1,600 and £2,400 worth of damage. Two vans belonging to a sea food shop had their tyres slashed, a butcher's vehicle had the same treatment causing £130 worth of damage and another butcher's vehicle tyres were slashed, this time causing £240 worth of damage.

OXFORDSHIRE

On Christmas Eve six ALF activists raided Oxford University's cat breeding unit at Nuneham Courtenay, Oxford. Access was gained to the building by removing a section of the corrugated asbestos roof and then into individual rooms via holes made in the attic floor. All alarms were bypassed and every cat in the building was rescued. Sixty-four cats, including four mothers with kittens and eighteen pregnant females, are now safe. The press statement issued by the activists reads "Most had deep tattoos in both ears and were terrified of human contact, but with a little care and a vet's help both problems are being solved. We have to thank everyone who helps the ALF financially and practically, without who Oxford University would have well over 100 cats to see the new year in with. Eat shit Blakemore". One of the activists even dressed up in a full Father Christmas costume with one small difference - a balaclava. A spokesperson talking to a reporter after the raid said "If they restock the place we'll just demonstrate our total disregard for the whole building - we'll destroy it next time. We'll break the law as often as we need to do". The entire raid took over four hours. On the 1st February activists raided Oxford University's Park Farm in Northmoor for the umpteenth time and rescued two hundred and fourteen guinea pigs, fifteen rabbits and five cats from a certain fate at the hands of vivisectors. They also took documents. Walls and doors of the buildings had to be drilled through before the animals could be rescued. Thousands of pounds of structural damage was done to the buildings in the raid. A spokesperson told the press that "We caused extensive damage to the building. If we can save one animal from death, pain or suffering it is worthwhile. The animals will receive treatment from vets and homes will be found for them". A University spokesman confirmed that the animals were destined to end up in experiments in the University's laboratories and hospitals.



SANTA CLAWS TO THE RESCUE WITH CHRISTMAS RAID



In tests, 10 out of 10 cats said they preferred freedom

'Today' - Boxing Day '90



Park Farm 1/2/90 - Photo: ALF

WEST SUSSEX

In early December shops in Crawley and Horsham were warned that L'Oreal and Chanel products may be contaminated. The claims came after samples of products were taken from the Boots branch in Horsham. Boots was mentioned as a main target because of its large range of medicines and cosmetics and because they perform vivisection experiments.

WEST YORKSHIRE

In the middle of January Sky Commercial Rabbit Farm, at Meltham near Huddersfield, received a visit from an ALF team which resulted in eighty rabbits, the entire contents of one shed, being rescued. Afterwards the group set fire to the shed, burning it totally to the ground, thereby ensuring that it will never again be used to exploit animals. A spokesperson said "All of the animals are now in safe, caring homes". Thirty-five windows were smashed at a meat wholesalers and a butcher's window was smashed in Huddersfield in September last year. During October a Leathershop window, two gun shop windows and two butchers windows were smashed in Huddersfield. On anti-McDonalds Day a chemical that smells strongly of vomit was sprayed inside six McDonalds in West Yorkshire and two butchers suffered the same nauseating fate through windows which hadn't yet been replaced - talk about kicking them while they're down. In November an articulated lorry and three vans belonging to animal abusers in Huddersfield had all their tyres slashed, windows etched, aerials and windscreen wipers wrecked and bodywork paint stripped. Boots in Brighouse had its window smashed and nine butchers in Huddersfield had the same treatment with the damage for two windows being put at £820. Later in the month three windows of the butchers who had previously had their windows smashed were broken again, along with five others. Two cars with BFSS and BASC stickers had their tyres burst and the tyres were also done on a meat van. On 27th November Boots in Brighouse had a return visit with five windows being etched with "Scum" and two other windows were etched and locks were glued up. On 12th December a British Bacon Co. van in Huddersfield had all its tyres slashed and windscreen wipers broken. Again in Huddersfield on 22nd the McDonalds had its windows smashed and the same treatment was given to a frozen meat shop.

SCOTLAND

On 18th September an army bomb disposal team carried out a controlled explosion on a suspicious looking package in a McDonalds in Princes Street in Edinburgh, after a warning phone call.



Left: One of eighty rabbits rescued from Sky Commercial rabbit farm near Huddersfield. After the shed was emptied of all rabbits, it was burnt to the ground. Photo: ALF

WALES

On New Years Eve the Cardiff ALF smashed the windows of four butchers, five Boots stores and seven burger bars - twenty-four panes of glass smashed in all. The shops included Wimpy, McDonalds and The Great British Burger and damage just to these three alone came in the region of £16,000.

NORTHERN IRELAND

On October 27th a "device" (and that's as detailed as it gets) was left in Mandy's hamburger bar in Cork. It was destroyed in a controlled explosion. A warning had been given about the device and there were claims that there were other devices in McDonalds and Burger King, which turned out to be hoaxes. Over October and November butchers' shops in Belfast were super glued and slogans were spray painted. A Kentucky Fried Chicken shop had four large plate glass windows smashed and damage was also caused to a meat van. In Hollywood, Co. Down, two windows of Boots were smashed and at Portrush, Co. Antrim, a large rock was used to smash a gun shop window. In December in Belfast Jaffa Furs was sprayed with "ALF" and anti-fur slogans. Fur Seasons, also in Belfast, was the target for a smoke bomb device on Christmas Eve and the President of Ballymena Hare Coursing Club had his home attacked with slogans painted on the front of the house and red paint poured over the front door. On the 7th January in Belfast slogans were painted on the walls of a sheepskin store and its window was smashed. A window of the Leather Centre was smashed causing £1,000 worth of damage. Jaffa Furs was targeted again when a marble wall belonging to the premises was pulled down. Red paint was poured over a gun shop in Co. Down.

ITALY

In October last year in Thiene a leather shop had its locks and shutters glued up.

POLAND

At the end of November in Luban Slaski ALF activists set fire to the buildings of the local slaughterhouse and the main gate. One building was totally destroyed and all work was stopped till the beginning of the new year. "Cancelled" stickers were stuck on posters advertising circuses with animals in Jelenia Gora, and other circus posters were torn down. Very few tickets were sold and some people returned their tickets. In Kielce ALF activists padlocked the doors of a hunting shop locking in twenty hunters who were shopping inside. On another occasion the shop was painted with slogans. Fifty mice were rescued on 10th October during a raid on the University in Poznan. An ALF group in Gryfow Slaski daubed slogans on meat shops and caused damage to angling boats and hunting look-out points.

SWEDEN

On November 17th the Swedish ALF (Djurens Befrielsefront, Box 2051, S-265 02 Astorp 2, Sweden) carried out their 35th action and sawed down five hunting platforms in the area of Ljungby. Their 36th action took place on November 21st when four young dogs were rescued from a notorious animal abuser, Mr. Erik Bengtsson in Skanes Fagerhult. This was the 6th time Bengtsson had been targeted and almost 90 dogs have now been rescued from this man.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On New Years Day ALF activists raided Cook County Hospital's Hektoen Laboratory in Chicago and liberated rabbits, guinea pigs and rats. The lab conducts burn and gastro-intestinal experiments. A supermarket chain removed all turkeys from its store in Tucson, Arizona, and offered refunds, after a call from a man who claimed to have injected the turkeys with cyanide during the run up to Thanksgiving. None of the turkeys removed had actually been injected.

The ALF carries out direct action against animal abuse, rescuing animals and causing financial loss, usually through the damage and destruction of property, to animal abusers. ALF actions are illegal and therefore activists work anonymously, either individually or in groups, and do not have any centralised organization or address.

OTHER GROUPS

On Saturday 6th October last year Animal Rights Militia activists slashed tyres and disabled fuel lines on a convoy of trucks at Royce Dupont Poultry, a meat packer in Toronto, Canada. The Band of Mercy claimed to have rescued over one hundred and seventy broiler chickens from seven different poultry farms in the south of England over the weekend of 1st and 2nd December. In South Africa the Southern Animal Defence League sent bomb threats to Wits Medical School, H.A. Grove Animal Centre and the Roodeplaat Research Laboratory.

HUNT SABOTEURS



David

Most of Arkangel's readers will know about the death of Mike Hill, a hunt saboteur from Merseyside. The HSA nationwide was deeply shocked by the tragedy and our thoughts are with Mike's friends and family. The events leading up to Mike's death are covered elsewhere in this issue, along with an obituary, of course.

Hunt Master in Livestock Shock!

No, it's not what you're thinking. Hunt master Guy Lister was convicted last November on five counts under the Protection of Livestock Act. The incident occurred in January 1990, when hounds of the East Essex FH jumped a garden fence and chased a donkey into a barbed wire fence. The animal was so terrified that it had to be tied down for a vet to examine its wounds. In her evidence, the donkey's owner Ann Fitch said that a huntsman ignored her pleas to take hounds away. While it's good to see justice done, the travesty is that hunts do far worse things to foxes (and other animals) and are quite within the law. Just before the court case the East Essex killed two pheasants - no foxes mind you, but it's all blood.

Elsewhere in the country sabs were busy against the usual range of hunts. Newbury sabs, for instance, were dealing with the ever-friendly Vine and Craven. In a moment of rare modesty, sabs described their horn calls as "feeble" - but nevertheless managed to call over the entire pack. What this says about the huntsman's competence is anyone's guess - but what can you expect from a hunt that's named two of its hounds 'Tebbit' and 'Thatcher'?

Equally pathetic are the Meon Valley Beagles, according to the Bognor and Chichester group. After a long day's sabbing at the Hursley Hambledon FH they were heading for home when what should they find but the MVB. A few quick notes on the horn scattered the beagles across several fields, while the ageing supporters tried to gather them up. As light faded sabs did the decent thing and helped collect the hounds.

The same group had one of their sabs arrested at the Chid and Lec in December. Almost as soon as he arrived at the police station he was released, and spent the afternoon waiting to be picked up in a nearby pub - is this supposed to be a deterrent?



(Simon Wild)

Saboteurs demonstrate at the Boxing Day meet of the Chiddingfold

Howl

Oxford sabs attended an Old Berkshire meet just before Christmas, but there was no sign of the hunt. Sabs were just about to leave when the hunt started arriving in dribs and drabs. looking very sorry for themselves. One rider finally apologised to the sabs for being late - they'd all got hammered at the hunt supper the night before. Needless to say, their hunting wasn't up to much!

Of course the big event in December is Boxing Day. In some ways this is ironic, because it's the day on which hunts are least likely to kill: they spend ages at the meet showing off (and getting pissed) and anyway tend not to want the general public to see any blood and guts. Hunting on Boxing Day is usually a pretty unimpressive affair, but it's also a prime opportunity for the HSA to show off too! This season, however, the weather took a hand, and hunts up and down the country stayed out only for a couple of hours before returning, drenched, to their turkey leftovers (and pneumonia, with a bit of luck). The weather doesn't put us off of course, and sabs attended a wide range of meets. No kills were reported. The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire FH didn't even go out, and the terrierfolk had to content themselves with chucking stones at the sabs waiting outside the kennels. A poor substitute for killing foxes no doubt.

The weather improved for the last few days of 1990, and sabs were out in force. The annual post-Christmas bash against the Heythorp FH saw Oxford, High Wycombe, Bath and New Forest sabs dealing well with a usually violent hunt. Several supporters took it upon themselves to try and roll one of the vans over, but luckily accepted a hunting horn instead. This was flattened by a virtually rabid terrierman and then handed back to the sabs.

Further west sabs were having trouble finding the North Ledbury FH, because the hunt seemed to have given up horn calls (can't think why) and have taken to dispersing their support in all directions. They'd be even harder to find if they stayed at home, but they haven't tried that - yet.



HOW



(Oxford HSA)

A Bath sab models a horn, specially customised for him by followers of the Heythrop FH, to blow flat notes only.

The year ended on a high note in Surrey. On December 31st North Downs sabs attended a children's meet of the Surrey Union. As with Boxing Day, children's meets tend to be fairly bloodless affairs, so it was quite a surprise when sabs had to stop a dig-out. Despite their efforts the hunt terrierman 'Round Rodney' West eventually dug down to the fox. He pulled it out and drew his humane killer. Three sabs piled in, two of them grabbing Rodders and the third grabbing the fox. As West went down the fox was thrown clear: the hunt staff then released the hounds, but - a tribute to how crap their hounds are - the fox got clean away. As if this wasn't enough, sabs stopped a second dig-out later in the day.

New Year's Day, however, was a mixture of good and bad. Oxfordshire Anti-Death Sports Society held their annual demo in Thame against the Vale of Aylesbury FH. Local anti-hunt protesters outnumbered hunt supporters, and a lot of good coverage resulted. Oxford sabs dealt with the actual hunt in their usual professional manner and there were no kills. At the Fitzwilliam FH hunt supporters seemed to have caught Mad Cow Disease, or perhaps Mad Landrover Disease. Displaying the care for life which we've come to expect from the bloodsports fraternity, one irate supporter drove his landrover straight into a Peterborough sab, knocking him down. But why settle for one when you can have a brace? He turned round and did it again, this time flattening a 16 year old girl.

Four days later sabs were back in force, but the hunt didn't emerge from the kennels. ("High Winds". Surprise, surprise.) Never ones to waste a day, the sabs travelled a few miles down the road to a joint meet of the Cambridgeshire and the Oakley. The high point of the excellent day that followed was probably a rider screaming "scum!" at an Anglia TV crew and trying to ride them down. The footage was duly shown on the evening news. Thanks, old chap...

Left: A refugee from the Fitzwilliam joins the new Huntingdon sab group
Photo: Copyright Robin Webb

January 2nd was the next meet of the Surrey Union, and not surprisingly there was trouble. Five or six 'boys' - not Union regulars - waded in with sticks, clubs etc. Two sabs had suspected skull fractures, two more had broken noses, and the rest had assorted cuts and bruises. Eleven days later an unknown number of saboteurs arrived at the Union's Forest Green meet. The police estimate was 300 plus, but probably no one will ever know. The hunt was chased back and forth across the Surrey hills (local papers spoke of "military style ambushes" and sabs armed with pickaxe handles, but that bears no relation to the truth) and finally took refuge in a farm surrounded by police. To describe the day's events as a "hunt" would be untruthful, but it was one of the finest day's sabbing this season. In the aftermath, the police advised the Union to drop their fortnightly Saturday meets - thus freeing North Downs sabs for other packs.

January also saw a couple of hunters in court, albeit with differing results. The whipper-in of the Bicester with Whaddon Chase was up for Action Likely To Cause A Breach Of The Peace, namely that he'd hit Oxford sab Alison Dunnett on the head with his riding crop. While the court accepted that he had cropped her (as he admitted) they decided not to bind him over. On a more positive note, the huntsman of the Holderness FH was up for Criminal Damage. He had already been bound over on a previous occasion, so he's obviously becoming well acquainted with court system. He was duly convicted, and given a Conditional Discharge - with that and a bind over, sabs are expecting him to behave next season.

Three days after the Bicester whip walked free, Oxford sabs were back. Since cropping a hunt saboteur appears not to be an offence in that part of the world, it's hardly surprising that another rider decided to crop their van. One sab got out and asked for the rider's name and address: the rider cropped him too.

Not long after that Oxford sabs travelled down to Somerset for one day of a Beagling Festival hosted by the Chilmark Beagles. The visiting pack was the Holme Valley from the Pennines,



and sabs set to work enthusiastically. The beagles responded well and the hunt was soon in complete disarray. It took the huntsman one and a half hours to gather his hounds, by which time it was getting dark. Holme Valley supporters pleaded with the Chilmark to put them up for the night so they could hunt again the next day, but the locals were having none of it. Sabs reckon the Holme Valley can't have got home much before 1 a.m.

The first week of February saw hunts and sabs all over the country grinding to a halt as the snow fell. One hunt that did go out was the Cheshire Beagles, and Merseyside sabs were there too. This was the day that Mike Hill was killed and more details are given elsewhere in this issue. Two days later there was a vigil outside the kennels, attended by Animal Rights activists from all over the country. Tempers flared and some damage was done to the house of the huntsman. (If you read the tabloid press account, you'd think that the Brixton riots were re-enacted, but that's no surprise.) The following Saturday sabs from virtually every sab group in the UK came to Cheshire, with the express purpose of stopping hunting anywhere in the county.



Right: Boxing Day sab. The Cheshire Beagle Hunt try to cross a stream and get rather cross. One fell in up to his waist.

Photo from MAPG

The Cheshire Beagles cancelled. The Cheshire Foxhounds cancelled. The Cheshire Forest Foxhounds cancelled. The North Staffordshire Foxhounds cancelled. The Albrighton Foxhounds cancelled. The Watkin Williams-Wynn's Foxhounds cancelled. These are the ones we know about: there are probably more. No hunts in Cheshire went out, and neighbouring counties saw precious few either.

Since then the Cheshire Beagles have been sabbed every Saturday. It has become a matter of honour that they go out - if that isn't an indication of how sick hunters are, what is? - and several neigbouring hunts have cancelled so that their supporters could "help out" at the Beagles. There has, of course, been a massive police presence, but sabbing has still taken place. However you look at it, Mike Hill's death has sealed the fate of the Cheshire Beagles. We will remember him.

February's snow gave way to a sunny March, and the season started to wind down. Oxford sabs made a complete mess of the Bicester (yet again) and were duly rewarded when one of the terriermen rammed their van. The van skidded through 360 degrees and ended up in a ditch. The sabs hurriedly got it roadworthy - amazingly, none of them were seriously hurt - and went off to their afternoon meet with the Christchurch and Farley Hill Beagles. One of the whips greeted them cheerily: "We haven't seen you chaps for a while." While one of the sabs apologised for this oversight, another ran off with the pack. They boxed up shortly afterwards.

Looking back over the season it's been one of the most active ever, although with a corresponding rise in violence from hunt supporters. Hunt sabs in Cambridge have been out 51 times, including 22 meets of their local foxhunt, the Cambridgeshire. Hastings and Bexhill sabs have missed only a very few meets of the East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH. Norwich sabs have stopped all their local hunts from advertising. Every Saturday of the East Kent FH has been sabbed, as have almost all the meets of the Old Surrey and Burstow FH. Yorkshire sabs have been very busy with their local packs, with the York and Ainsty (South) on course to win the Most Responsive Pack contest. At the Middleton one sab vehicle had its tyres slashed, but joint master Megginson assured sabs that it hadn't been his people. Sabs suspect aliens.

As March comes to a close, several hunts have finished earlier than usual (it's the weather, of course) which has released large numbers of sabs to concentrate on the ones that are still out. There has been trouble at the West Norfolk FH and the Hursley Hambledon FH, with the usual travesty of several sabs in hospital and several others in police cells - and no hunt supporters in either. It's a tribute to the dedication of hunt saboteurs that that sort of behaviour from police and hunt hasn't shaken their resolve.



Several hunts are now having their last meets ever, or else have already done so. So thanks and goodnight to the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Foxhounds, the Derwent Valley Beagles, and Mr. Goschen's Foxhounds. In addition, the Four Shires Bassets are "probably disbanding" and the Dart Vale and Holden Harriers are amalgamating with the South Pool Harriers. Roll up, roll up, who's next?

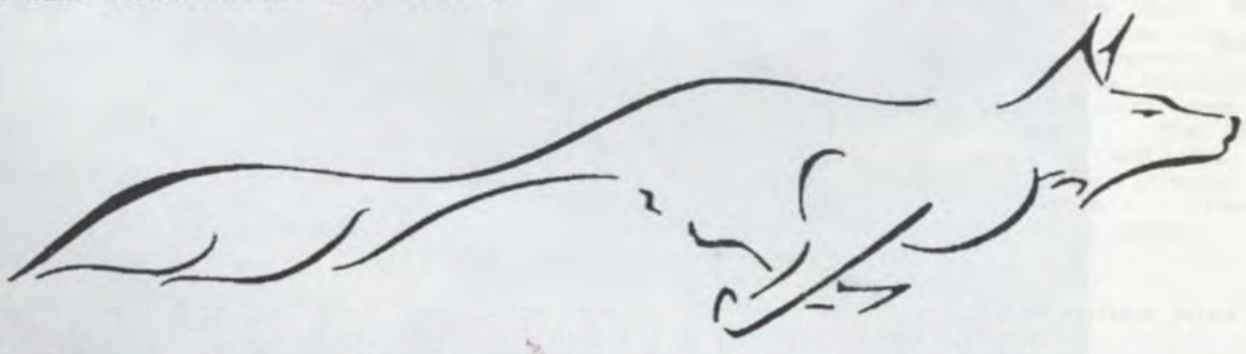
"More people go hunting than ever before."
Source: 'Horse and Hound',
usually about once a month

"Yes, but most of them are sabs."
Source: us

As Arkangel goes to press, hunt saboteurs will be attending a "long weekend" of action against Cumbrian foxhunts - and as you read this we'll be out against the first mink hunts of the summer. As ever, we'll need your support.

HSA,
PO Box 1,
Carlton,
Nottingham,
NG4 2JY

The HSA exists to take non-violent direct action against all bloodsports ranging from illegal ones such as dog-fighting to supposedly prestigious ones like foxhunting and staghunting. The HSA's strength lies in its network of local groups - over 1,000 saboteurs are active every Saturday, and often mid-week as well. Both local groups and the national HSA are always in need of support, financial, moral, active or whatever.



HSA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AFRICA

Since all international trade in ivory was banned over a year ago the price of ivory has collapsed from about £450 a kilo to about £2.50 and so elephant poaching has declined considerably (Animal Welfare Institute Quarterly Winter 90/91). Ruanda, Uganda, Burundi and the Congo have created protected areas for chimpanzees in danger of extermination (Recht fur Tiere Nov/Dec 90)

AUSTRALIA

A 3 year rehabilitation programme for 10 dolphins and other marine animals, so that they can eventually be released into the wild, has been put into action by the proprietors of the Atlantis Marine Park near Perth which is having to close because of lack of customers. The state of Victoria has dispensed with cosmetics testing on animals and Tasmania has forbidden the sale of intensively reared chickens and battery eggs (Liberiamo La Cavia Autumn/Winter 90). On December 4th Campbelltown City Council, the second largest local authority to supply cats and dogs for research in New South Wales, voted to abolish pound seizure (People Against Vivisection). Several companies are now helping the Australian Koala Foundation to raise funds for habitat protection, including a joint project with the cities of Brisbane, Logan and Redlands and the Australian govt. to preserve 39 square miles of eucalyptus (Animals Agenda Jan/Feb 91)

AUSTRIA

In Vienna an association of lawyers has been formed to fight for animal protection (Transparent magazine)

BELIZE

Signed an agreement with WWF to put aside 100,000 acres - 2% of the nation - as a jaguar sanctuary (Animals Agenda Jan/Feb 91)

BRAZIL

Horrific cruelties inflicted on cattle during Farra do Boi fiestas in Brazil have been substantially reduced and the events are losing the support of politicians (Animals International Spring 91)

CANADA

Following pressure from A/R campaigners Toronto and Vancouver have banned rodeos. A change in the antiquated local animal protection law enabled the Canadian SPCA and local animal protectionists to rescue 200 dogs from a breeding farm near Quebec (Recht fur Tiere Nov/Dec 90). The 50 worst industrial polluters along the St. Lawrence River have cut discharges into the water by 30% over the past year. Staff of Parks Canada, a branch of Environment Canada, have joined native groups from Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories in rebellion against Environment Canada's plan to massacre all 3,500 bison in the Wood Buffalo National Park (Animals Agenda Jan/Feb 91). Canada's newly released national Green Plan calls for the spending of £1,500 million to protect the environment over the next 5 years and includes setting aside 12% of Canadian territory to protect wildlife and ecosystems, reducing pollution and spending £50 million to clean up the Arctic. The Ontario Trappers Assoc. whose auction co. dealt with 75% of raw fur sold in Ontario went bankrupt on Jan 5th after sales had fallen from £15 million in 1989 to £4 million in 1990 (Animals Agenda March 91). A proposal to expand Vancouver Zoo has been thrown out by a local referendum. Saanieh in British Columbia has banned animal circuses (Animal Free Press 12/3/91).

CHINA

The Chinese alligator population, down to 500 in 1980, has climbed to 2,000 since a 900,000 hectare preserve was set aside for them in 1982 (Animals Agenda Jan/Feb 91). China has announced a crackdown on wildlife smuggling (Animals Agenda March 91). A Chinese farmer was sentenced to death, suspended for 2 years, for killing a panda in Shaanxi province.

COLOMBIA

A National Statute for the Protection of Animals has recently come into force which prohibits much cruelty to wild and domestic animals, seeks to improve standards of animal transportation, abolish animal experiments "where alternatives exist", protects endangered species and imposes penalties of up to 5 years in prison (Giornale della Natura Dec 90)



TURNING POINT

EGYPT

The governor of the region of Aswan has strictly prohibited the hunting of the Nile cocodile, with possession, transportation and selling of the crocodiles and their skins also prohibited (Famiglia Cristiana Oct 90)

FRANCE

Plans for the construction of a dam on the River Loire are to be abandoned. The proposed dam (at Serre-de-la-Fare) was opposed by environmentalists who are continuing to fight other plans for developments along the river (Le Monde 13/2/91). It is becoming more fashionable to be environmentally conscious in France, where Green candidates took part in the last local and European elections. Many furshops have closed in Paris following Brigitte Bardot's TV programmes against animal exploitation and a lot of French models won't promote fur. More and more French newspapers have environment experts and "Green Studies" in schools is increasing. An agency for the environment and energy saving has been formed by the Govt. with a budget of about £250 million raised from air pollution and refuse taxes and early next year the French parliament is to discuss a national plan for the environment. Plans to interfere with about 70 rivers to provide water for atomic power stations and agriculture have been put on ice because of the resistance of environmentalists (Die Welte 20/2/91). After worldwide protest France recalled an Antibes Marineland crew sent to Morocco to capture 7 highly endangered Mediterranian monk seals (Animals Agenda March 91).

GERMANY

Medical students have been allowed to avoid animal experiments at Berlin University. The world's first animal rights press agency, the APPA, has been set up in Oberrod by the Animal Peace organisation (Recht fur Tiere Nov/Dec 90). After representation by animal protectionists Lufthansa, formerly the largest carrier of pet birds to the USA, announced it would no longer accept shipments of wild caught birds (Animal Welfare Institute Quarterly Winter 90/91). The German parliament has accepted a proposal by the Green Party forbidding the production and use of the hormone BST, which increases milk production but damages the health of the cow. An apparatus developed at the University of Bochum which can be used to produce a kilogram of anti-bodies and so saves 10,000 mice from being used for this purpose, is now being used by more than a thousand labs throughout the country. Agriculture Minister Karl-Heinz Funke has supported the states of Nordrhein-Westfalen and Niedersachsen in their opposition to battery cages for hens and has accused the central German Govt. of putting economic interests in front of animal protection. He has also forbidden the use of live ducks (whose wings are clipped) in the training of hunting dogs, so saving the lives of an estimated 100,000 ducks in the state of Niedersachsen alone (Gaia Winter 90/91). A report from the Orthopaedic University Clinic at the Essen-Werde Evangelical Hospital shows how techniques for the development of microsurgical skills can be practised on isolated tissues and inanimate objects instead of live animals (The AV Jan 91). Germans, especially young people, are eating less and less meat and it is estimated that there will be a 3% reduction in meat production in Germany in 1991. It is also forecast that pork production will fall by a further 20% and beef production by 5 or 6% (Die Welte 24/1/91). From 1992 herbicides and pesticides which have a tendency to drift away from the area where they are being sprayed will no longer be permitted by the German authorities (Die Welte 29/1/91). There has been a heavy turnover loss for the German fur industry with many furshops closing, including 3 large ones in the centre of Munich after years of protest by A/R campaigners (Recht fur Tiere Feb 91). Following a programme about animal experimentation on German TV, 30,000 viewers phoned in, of which 75% favoured total abolition of vivisection and a further 20% partial abolition (Animal Peace). According to a new police decree in the state of Baden-Wurttemberg a sort of weapons licence will be needed for aggressive breeds of dog and the breeding of fierce dogs for private purposes is to be completely forbidden (Die Welte 1/2/91). A computer programme developed at the Heidelberg Institute for Neurobiology is replacing experiments on frogs in the training of German biology and medical students and has also been taken up in colleges and universities in Austria and Switzerland (Die Welt 12/2/91). The German Ministry of Research has provided about £14 million to cover the years 1990-93 for research into finding alternatives to animal experiments (Die Welte 7/3/91). 3 nature reserves in the Rhone, Spreewald and Sudost-Rugen regions of Germany as well as the Berchtersgerden national park are to become internationally recognised and protected as Unasco biosphere reserves and the already existing biosphere reserves of the Middle Elbe and Vessertal in the Thuringwald are to be enlarged. At present there are about 300 Unesco biosphere reserves in 74 countries (Die Welt 19/3/91 & 28/3/91)

GREECE

Greece's first anti-vivisection group has been formed and held its first congress entitled "Vivisection: Science or Barbarity?" in Athens in December (Liberiamo La Cavia Autumn/Winter 90)

HONG KONG

Hong Kong, the world's leading exporter of finished fur garments, reported a 34% drop in their sales since 1988 (Animals Agenda March 91).

ICELAND

A plan to issue permits for the capture of 4 killer whales was withdrawn after international protests (Animals International Spring 91)

INDIA

Over 8 million Indians of all major religions celebrated Nov 25th as a meatless day in the spirit of kinship with animals (Animals Agenda March 91). India has banned circuses from training or exhibiting tigers, monkeys, bears, panthers and dogs (Press Trust of India 14/3/91)



ISRAEL

The Israel Defence Forces have agreed to halt a dog lab in which unnecessary surgery is done to desensitize new recruits to the sight of open wounds (Animals Agenda March 91)

ITALY

One zoo after another is closing and several towns have banned animal circuses. There is also more support for animal protection from the Catholic Church (Recht fur Tiere Feb 91)

JAPAN

Bowing to global outrage over the killing of 582 dolphins in Miiraka harbour on Dec 23rd, the Nagasaki prefectural govt. refused to pay the killers a bounty of £19 a head that they had received previously for killing dolphins. Japanese retail beef sales have slowed markedly and of 394,000 tons imported in 1990, 100,000 remained unsold at the year's end and despite a 20% price cut over the previous 6 months (Animals Agenda March 91)

MEXICO

Following an international campaign to end the annual slaughter of thousands of Olive Ridley turtles, the Mexican govt. crackdown on the trade is having results, with an increase in the number of egg-laying females and the closure of a turtle slaughterhouse (Animals International Spring 91). The Mexican president has closed a refinery at Azcapozalco (north west of Mexico City) which was seriously polluting the atmosphere (Le Monde 22/3/91).

NAMIBIA

Namibian law now threatens ivory and rhino horn poachers with fines of £40,000 plus 20 years in prison (Animals Agenda March 91)

NIGERIA

A Vegetarian Society has been set up in Nigeria and has plans to open a vegetarian restaurant and health food store, to promote cruelty-free products and lifestyle and to encourage humane education in schools (Nigeria Vegetarian Society and Animal Welfare Foundation, PO Box 3893, Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria)

NORWAY

Last April's annual sale of mink and fox furs in Oslo was catostrophic with demand almost coming to a standstill and this was expected to have a very hard effect on Norwegian fur farmers in the 1990-1991 year (Recht fur Tiere Nov/Dec 90). Norway has continued killing whales for "research" but has cut the number of minke whales to be taken from 68 to 5 to avoid US trade sanctions (Animals Agenda March 91)

POLAND

Goshawks have increased in number in Poland recently as a result of protection by law since 1979 (Animals Agenda Jan/Feb 91). There are now 7 organisations campaigning for animal rights in Poland (Recht fur Tiere Feb 91)

SAUDI ARABIA

At the urging of WSPA the commanders of Operation Desert Shield ordered troops training in the desert to avoid repetition of an incident in which 4 camels were killed by shell fire after wandering into a target range (Animals Agenda March 91)

SPAIN

A new animal protection law has come into force in the Madrid area which forbids the abandoning of dogs and the killing and injuring of animals at fiestas (Recht fur Tiere Nov/Dec 90). After the discovery of a network for the artificial fattening of livestock (using prohibited hormones etc.) the consumption of meat in Spain fell by 30%, with an almost 50% fall in the region of Catalonia (El Pais 20/12/90). Shepherds who once blasted bearded vultures out of the sky until there were only 35 pairs left in the country are now being paid off by WWF to protect them. The policy has worked so well that last year Spain's bearded vultures raised 21 chicks, a record for the last 10 years. "Project Bear" (funded by provincial agriculture depts and the Fund for the Protection of Wildlife) which compensates farmers for financial losses from bears' predation has so far proved very successful in preventing bears from being killed. Over the last decade at least 9 Spanish "national parks" have been created, where any interference with animals is strictly forbidden and 16 "natural parks", in which certain activities like grazing and forestry are permitted. Poaching and similar offences are now much more severely punished and heavy fines face anyone killing endangered species (Animals Agenda March 91). The European Development Fund has earmarked over £150 million for environmental protection in Spain, to be used to combat erosion and destruction caused by forest fires and to clean up industrial effluent (Die Weld 26/3/91)



SOUTH AFRICA

Has not signed the CITES ban on ivory but honoured it throughout 1990 and said on Jan 2nd that it would continue honouring it throughout 1991 (Animals Agenda March 91)

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

WSPA has estimated that the worldwide collapse of the fur trade has been reflected in a reduction of the fur industry by 60% in the Soviet Union, meaning that 25 million fur animals a year are avoiding death and torture in the USSR where the policies of Glasnost and Perestroika have led to the formation of numerous animal protection societies (Recht fur Tiere Feb 91)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Researchers at the National Cancer Institute have exchanged mice for non-animal procedures involving computers, automized equipment and human cancer cells, in order to determine the effectiveness of anti-cancer drugs (Gaia Winter 90/91). The pet overpopulation problem in Bridgeport, Connecticut's largest and most economically depressed city, has improved dramatically since 1986 when the Foundation for Animal Protection and the Bridgeport Animal Shelter set up a project to promote pet care and pay for veterinary treatment and neutering/spaying. In 1989, at the Shelter, 601 fewer dogs were impounded, 764 fewer destroyed and 249 fewer sold as pets than in 1986. On Nov 28th President Bush signed a new law prohibiting "dolphin safe" claims being applied to products harvested by driftnet fishing. The Act also imposes a future ban on all fish caught in driftnets from entering the US (Animal Welfare Institute Quarterly Winter 90/91). Citizens to End Animal Suffering have won an out-of-court settlement with the New England Aquarium to prevent a "surplus" dolphin being given to the navy. Voters in California have overwhelmingly approved a ban (from 1994) on nylon gill nets, which are a major threat to marine mammals. The Seattle-based Nordstrom department store chain announced it would cease fur sales by Feb 1st. The animal care and use committee at Washington State University's Pullman Campus has refused to let researcher Frederick Gilbert test a modified body-gripping trap on up to a dozen otters. The International Animal Exchange of Grand Prairie, Texas, which 20 years ago supplied 80% of animals imported by US zoos has suffered a ¾ cut in income in recent years as enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species has become tougher. The course for the American Power Boat Assocs world championship was cut by 4 miles to avoid injuring manatees off Key West, Florida. The value of McDonalds' shares fell 25% in 1990 and sales per restaurant have slipped since 1988. Florida has begun a £10 million effort to cleanse heavily polluted Lake Apopka by restoring wetlands, with 5,050 acres being returned to swamp. Los Angeles has agreed to preserve 200 acres of dunes near the city airport which are home to 900 different species of wild animals and flowers. After losing donations due to controversial investments the Connecticut Humane Society announced that within a year it will sell £1.25 million worth of stock in firms that use animals in product testing and research. Lands End Inc. has acknowledged that recent ads in its catalogue featuring rodeo scenes were "thoughtless" and has pledged it won't "make this mistake again". The National Maritime Fisheries Service has put the Sacramento River chinook salmon on its protected species list. A 3,500 square mile National Marine Sanctuary has been approved for Florida Keys, with a management plan to include anti water pollution measures, a ban on large ships near the coral reef and the prohibition of nearby oil and gas drilling. Sears

Roebuck have said they will not list live chickens or debeaking services in any of their 1991 catalogues after being asked to cease debeaking and the sale of live chickens by the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights. At the request of a 76 member local coalition, San Luis Obispo County, California (where beef ranching is a major industry) declared October "Vegetarian Month" with a proclamation extolling the virtues of a meatless diet. North Haven, in New York State, is to ban boarhunting. Although veal made up 7% of dinner sales, the Pennsylvania-based Maggie Mae's restaurant chain dropped it from its menu from Nov 1st after the company owner became aware of the conditions in which veal calves are raised (Animals Agenda Jan/Feb 91). On Jan 16th the US Navy scrapped plans to use bottle-nosed dolphins to guard missile-carrying subs in Puget Sound. In Dec San Mateo County, California, passed as ordinance prohibiting anyone without a breeding licence owning a non spayed or neutered adult dog or cat. Rock star Tom Scholz gave £1,750 and Citzens to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation gave £1,000 to the Pine Street Inn Shelter and Soup Kitchen in Boston after the management declined £2,225 raised by a fur fashion show. The Salvation Army has disaccociated itself from the Safari Club Internation "Sportsmen Against Hunger" campaign, in which hunters donate their kills to soup kitchens to improve their public image. As fur shops continue to go out of business in all parts of the country, attendance at the American Fur Industry Inc's fund-raising pre-Xmas dinner dance dropped from 500 in 1989 to 235 in 1990 with cash returns falling from £100,000 to £45,000. A judge at Moffat County, Colorado, imposed one of the stiffest sentences yet for livestock abuse when he sentenced a couple to 90 days in jail each for letting over 200 cattle starve to death. The Bureau of Land Management has cancelled the 1991 Barstow-to-Las Vegas off-road motorcycle race to protect the endangered Mojave desert tortoise. 15 Oklahoma oil well operators have agreed to put up netting to prevent birds getting stuck in sump bits, a measure which could save an estimated 500,000 birds a year. Trophy hunter Paul Aspen was jailed for 30 months and fined about £100,000 for illegally importing heads and hides of at least 16 endangered animals between 1978 and 1987. Sued by Los Angeles County for violating the Californian endangered species act, bootmakers Tony Lama co. of El Paso, Texas, agreed to pay penalties and costs totalling over £70,000 and to stop importing python skin boots. In Dec the governer of Ohio vetoed a bill making it illegal to harass hunters, following the ruling as unconstitutional of hunter harassment laws in Connecticut and Wisconsin. Lack of funding seems to have killed a plan to bring horse racing to Lubbock, Texas. Mexican food, offering multiple vegetarian options, is the fastest growing sector of the fast food business while fried chicken and hamburger franchise earnings have levelled off or dropped. Oklahoma City has upped its maximum penalty for cruelty to animals from a fine of £50 to a £250 fine plus 90 days in jail. The San Diego Supercomputer Center has developed a programme simulating the effect of a jet engine sucking in a flock of birds to replace the killing of chickens during engine design tests. A Florida man has become the first shrimper to be jailed for not using a turtle excluder on his nets and was given 30 days on Dec 11th, while a shrimper from Louisiana was fined £1,125, given 3 years probation and ordered to spend 40 days helping the Nat. Marine Fisheries Service teach Vietnamese fishermen about Gulf of Mexico fishing law. Boston's Stone Zoo shut on Nov 12th due to budget cuts. The Bureau of Land Management has ordered the DeLamar Silver Mine of Idaho to keep waterfowl from drinking water polluted with cyanide by mining operations and to post a bond of £5 million to guarantee the site will be cleansed when the mine closes. Tuna company Bumble Bee pledged to spend up to £250,000 to research dolphin-safe fishing methods and to pay all the costs of basing a full-time environmentalist at its parent firm in Thailand for a year to verify that future tuna purchases are dolphin-safe. New York State has purchased 6,412 acres of one of the most critical bald eagle habitats in the eastern USA plus conservation rights to 5,565 acres more as part of a conservation programme which has seen the number of nesting pairs on the site increase from only one in 1976 to 10 at present. Of the "Ten Worst Zoos" Parade magazine named in 1989, three have now greatly improved, one closed last year, 2 are closed for renovation and one has pledged to renovate. The New Fillmore, a San Fransisco monthly newspaper with a 17,500 circulation, now refuses meat ads because of the damage an animal-based diet



causes to health and the environment. The number of loggerhead turtle nests found at MacArthur State Park, Florida, jumped from 581 in 1989 to 1,062 in 1990. The owner of the former Marineland Aquarium in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, is allowing the Organization for the Respect and Care of Animals of the Sea to use it as a marine mammal rehabilitation centre pending completion of a permanent rehab. centre at Fort MacArthur. Washington DC adopted a carriage horse protection bylaw in Dec 18th. The Stardust Resort and Casino in Las Vegas has closed a performing orangutan show after 32 years following revelations of cruelty by the trainer. The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, City Council has required rodeos to have an on-site veterinarian and has barred the use of bucking straps, electric prods, sharpened spurs and "other tormenting devices" at such events. And Alameda County, California, has also passed a measure requiring rodeos to have a veterinarian on site. On Jan 9th the Berkeley, California, city council unanimously banned the use of the Draize test and skin irritancy test within city limits. The Coalition for Responsible Ecology has persuaded authorities at River Hills, Wisconsin, not to have local deer shot and to relocate deer found within the town limits instead of killing them. The St. Petersburg, Florida, SPCA forced the Sacred Heart Catholic Church to end a roulette game where live rodents were used instead of balls. The University of California at San Diego has cancelled a series of dog labs for practising surgeons due to protest by the local Animal Advocates group. The National Council of American Indians has joined the Coalition to Ban Live Bird Shoots in Pennsylvania. The Governor of Florida named Dec 17th "Save a Pet Day" to coincide with the "Animal Rights Day" set earlier by the Palm Beach County Commission (Animals Agenda March 91)

SANCTUARIES

THE ANIMAL ACCIDENT RESCUE UNIT

(24 hour no. Nottingham 321555)
Provides an emergency transport service to help animals (including hedgehogs) and birds involved in accidents etc. in the Nottingham area.

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS

This cat rescue sanctuary in Torquay have had new premises built to save the costs of putting up unwanted pets in commercial catteries. The new buildings have facilities for cats to stay indoors or to roam in an open air pen. Ten volunteer helpers go in every day to feed the residents and to clean out the cages.

CEDARWOOD WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

(Blissford Hill, Frogham, Nr. Fordingbridge, Hampshire - 0425 657402)
An animal rehabilitation centre for injured animals and the people running it are on call 24 hours a day. They deal with a large number of birds of all sorts and hedgehogs, which alone cost the centre £1,000 a year. The centre has two resident foxes, Digby and Basil. Visitors are not allowed unless bringing casualties, as there is no time to show people around. As always, donations are urgently needed.

COURT LODGE FARM SANCTUARY

(Court Lodge Farm, Burwash, East Sussex - 0435 882340)
Looks after large farm animals and has, at present, calves, lambs, ponies, donkies and horses. They have four shire horses which have been saved from being sold for horse meat. Funds are needed and the sanctuary is also in need of people to help with the never ending work.

One of the shire horses at Court Lodge Farm



PHIL CLARKE'S FERAL CATS HOME

(73 Mary St, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts NG17 7JQ - Mansfield 756592 and Nottingham 585666)
The home has a new address. Builders have recently concreted the yard and erected new runs, all of which cost £1,450. The Cats Protection League helps with the cost of spaying and neutering and with vets bills but the home has to pay for all the other costs itself.

THE KIT WILSON TRUST FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

(Animal Rescue Centre, Stonehurst Lane, Hadlow Down, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 4ED - 082 585444)
Had a very successful open day raising over £5,000 and over seventy of their ex-dogs brought their humans along. The Trust managed to increase its animal sponsors by fourteen on that day as well. The 1990 sponsored dog walk raised over £12,000. The Trust is lucky to be one of the 40 sanctuaries country wide who will benefit from an appeal fund started on World Animal Day.

RESCUED ANIMALS IN NEED

Lost its refuge in Knockholt but is hoping to purchase suitable land in the Sevenoaks area in Kent. Till then RAIN will continue to aid animals needing homes as much as possible with direct homing. Anyone who can help as a cat minder please ring Mrs. Peddar 0689 54269, as a dog minder ring Mrs. Thoy 0959 32550 or with fund raising, ring 073275 535.

SILVER LAKE ANIMAL SANCTUARY

(Midlington Rd, Droxford, Hants)
Run by a single hard-working lady who has been involved with animal welfare for 52 years. Permanent residents are two sheep and a black labrador who had a broken back but was saved thanks to public donations to pay the £700 vets bill. The sanctuary has a caravan which is a sick bay for cats.

SKYE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

SKYE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

(Isle of Skye Field Centre, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9AQ - 04712 487)
Has an animal rehabilitation centre for sick and injured wildlife. To date they have treated a number of birds and animals including gulls, snipe, Manx shearwaters, Leach's petrel, Little auk, seals and otters. The site also has a museum and education centre.

SUSSEX HORSE RESCUE TRUST

(Heron Farm, Ashurst, Steyning, West Sussex BN4 3AL - Steyning 812427 and Cowfold 864200)
The open day raised just over £2,000. A great deal of time has been spent draining and filling some dangerous slurry pits, not helped by the fact that all the frogs and toads who'd made a home there had to be relocated.

TY-AGONED ANIMAL SANCTUARY

(Cribyn, Near Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales)
Has about a hundred and fifty animals, mostly dogs, many of which are ex-breeding bitches from puppy farms. Money, as always, is needed to keep the sanctuary running in this difficult area of the country.

PUBLICATIONS

ALL CHANGE

(PO Box 10, Ryde, Isle of Wight - 0983 616980)
Over a number of years Janet Hunt (The Caring Cook) and Animaline Director Geoff Francis have collected vegetarian recipes from a wide range of 'celebrities'. The fruits of their labour, 'Celebrity Vegetarian Cookbook' is to be launched this spring and they fully expect it to become a popular seller. Royalties will go to a long-term vegetarian project to feed malnourished children in the Third World.

THE ANIMALS SHOP

(PO Box 10, Ryde, Isle of Wight - 0983 616980)
New Zealand cartoonist Stan Eales has designed a set of colourful and amusing postcards, some of which we have used to illustrate this issue of Arkangel. The cards are available directly from The Animals Shop for 25p each retail and 12p + VAT wholesale (p&p is 30p for orders up to £1, 90p for orders up to £5, £1.70 for up to £10, £2.40 for over £10 and p&p is free for orders over £30).

Postcard from The Animals Shop



BLACK PAW

A magazine including a multitude of press cuttings relating to Animal Liberation Front actions and also lists press sources and addresses to contact them. The editorial explains that the mag's purpose is to show the level of ALF activity over the past year and how the ALF is growing, contrary to the claims of the media and some animal organizations. No address is published for obtaining the publication.

BUYING GREEN

(PO Box 14, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 3Y6)
Since the publication of the Green Consumer Guide in 1988 many new environmentally friendly products have hit the market. With the intention of keeping the consumer in touch with the new products a bi-monthly newsletter is available entitled 'Buying Green'. Subscription is £6. If subscribers request, a proportion of the sub will be donated to the BUAV.

THE EXTENDED CIRCLE

(Centaur Press Ltd, Fontwell, Sussex BN18 0TA - 0243 683302)
Updated and greatly expanded. The book stresses the connection between our behaviour towards each other and our treatment of non-human species. It makes a trenchant case for acknowledging the rights of other creatures, irrespective of consequential benefit to ourselves.

GREENLINE

(34 Cowley Rd, Oxford, OX4 1HZ)
The excellent monthly magazine of green politics and lifestyle. The new year issue (GL84) includes interesting articles "Arguing for Animals" by David Lane and "Putting Animals Into Politics" by Barry Maycock, as well as its regular "Animal News" page, articles on green issues, a Green Diary and book reviews. For 10 issues: supporters £12, waged £8 and low waged £6.50.

GREENSCENE MAGAZINE

(The Vegetarian Society, Parkdale, Dunham Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4QG - 061 928 0793)
"The only magazine for young vegetarians!". Packed full of features, recipes, cartoons, consumer news, interviews and other items of interest to young people concerned about animals and the environment. 85p an issue but sent free to all Junior members of the Vegetarian Society (open to under 18s for £4 a year).

THE MOVEMENT FOR COMPASSIONATE LIVING

(47 Highlands Rd, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8NQ)
A new book is available called 'Happy, Caring, Healthy and Sharing', by Graham Burnett. The book is for young, green vegans and focuses on several aspects of the 'Green Vegan' philosophy, such as self-sufficiency and vegan health, all explained with pictures and words in a clear, easily comprehensible manner. The book is 16 pages long and costs £1, including p&p. The MCL has videos of the Open Door film made by the Vegan Society in 1976. It lasts 30 minutes and is a convincing argument for veganism. The video will be loaned in return of £1 for postage but any donations would be gratefully received. The MCL's magazine 'New Leaves' is available for a subscription of £3.



ROSE-TINTED MENAGERIE

(by William Johnson/Heretic Books - £8.95)
This probing new book exposes the suffering and deprivation behind the glamour and spectacle of circus animal acts and dolphin shows. From his own undercover work and from the testimony of scores of ex-circus and dolphin show staff, the author has built a formidable file of evidence. He hopes his book will change public perceptions of animals held in captivity. Available from Care for the Wild and the Captive Animals' Protection Society.

PERSUADING A COUNCIL TO ADOPT AN ANIMAL RIGHTS CHARTER

by Anne Edwards

The advice given here is based on my experience of working on this with a London Borough a few years ago so it may be out of date and/or vary from the constitutions of county councils and Metropolitan boroughs. I must also point out that the adoption of the charter may be the easiest thing to arrange compared to ensuring that the local authority actually acknowledges its duties and obligations under the charter. This will require long term commitment, constant lobbying and some involvement with local party politics no matter how much this may conflict with your own ideals.

After drafting your charter (we used the Islington one as a model) the first step is to obtain a list of councillors, committees and sub committes from your Town Hall. Then send a copy of the charter to all the councillors (in a London borough this may be over 60 people so be prepared for high expenditure on postage) explaining who you are and that the charter will shortly be presented to the council for adoption as council policy. Ask them to reply to you saying whether or not they will support this. Not only may you find out who will be sympathetic but also who will be anti, as usually only those strongly in favour or strongly against will be bothered to respond. Whatever the response, if only a few write back, don't assume they are all unsupportive. Good councillors are very busy and to them Animal Rights is just another item on their agenda demanding some of their limited time. There is bound to be one, at least, sympathetic and informed councillor who will be prepared to help you. If you don't already have such a contact, and don't get a response from the letters, look back through local papers to see if anyone has spoken out for animals. It is very important, in fact it is essential, to have the advice and co-operation of at least one member who will give you information on committee procedure and the political make-up of the committees and advise which is the most appropriate committee or sub committee to work through.

It is wise to send copies to each branch of all the political parties in the borough via the branch secretaries. This will also be a way of finding a councillor prepared to help you. Addresses can be found from telephone directories, the Town Hall, or even local newspapers may be prepared to tell you. When writing to local branches of all the parties, explain about your intentions and ask for a chance to address one of their meetings to drum up support. it may seem a lot of trees being sacrificed to copy the charter so many times, but everybody with interests and influence must be kept informed and involved. Likewise, send copies to local MPs and local RSPCA and other Animal Rights/welfare groups there may be in the area.

The supportive members should be able to suggest other people to contact and tell you which committee should receive the charter for consideration, bearing in mind the political make-up, likely support, as well as the most relevant department - usually Environmental Health. There must be a councillor prepared to submit the charter. Get the dates and times of the meeting that will receive it and write to the Chair, maybe signed by the councillor, asking for it to be put on the Agenda. Usually this will be acceptable and you will get notice of when it is to be discussed. (If the Chair refuses, keep lobbying with letters in local papers etc. and try again in a few months.) Write to all those on the committee explaining about the charter (send a second copy just in case the first one got lost) urging their support and your readiness to meet and talk to them about it. Again, don't be discouraged if you don't get any replies, it may not be significant.

Now, widen your campaign by writing to the local newspapers, getting pre-printed/pre-addressed postcards for local people to send to the Town Hall and get on the streets distributing them, both knocking on peoples' doors and by having them on your stall in shopping centres. Don't forget to write as individuals yourselves too. It is no guarantee for success if the council receive floods of letters, but without any sign at all that the voters will support it you really have no chance at all.

At the relevant committee or sub committee meeting, wait outside to lobby members as they go in (BE POLITE AND NON-CONFRONTATIONAL) and then go and watch the meeting from the public gallery. You will not be allowed to speak or brief the councillors. Be patient as it may be a long meeting with your charter far down the Agenda. All being well, the meeting will vote at the end of a debate. If the motion falls, ie. they refuse to adopt the charter, have a postmortem and discuss new tactics, where you could have done more etc. Then wait about 6 months and start again. Listen to the councillors who may have advice to offer - this may involve making changes to the charter which only you can decide upon.

However, if they vote to accept the charter, it must then go to the council for ratification. (If it was initially discussed at a sub committee it may go first to a committee and then to full council). This is not just another rubber stamping exercise as the membership of full council includes members who have not discussed this before, so it must be taken very seriously. Write to them all and keep giving out postcards for the public to send in. On the evening of the meeting, again be there early to leaflet outside - and inside, in the public gallery, prepare for an even longer meeting. Now, when the vote is made, if it falls, re-evaluate the position - seek political advice and if you are still dedicated to getting the charter adopted wait a few months and start again. Be prepared to listen to the advice of councillors who are supportive.

If the charter is adopted - well done! As I wrote at the beginning though, the real work starts now, monitoring how the charter is implemented and ensuring it is not just policy in name only. Generally, my advice is to listen to the politicians and local party workers - you know all about the charter and Animal Rights but they know about local authority constitution and committee work. Cultivate contacts with influential people and be prepared to do the work for them, eg. draft their letters, write information for their speeches if they wish. Be patient, it will certainly take months to achieve its adoption, but if you succeed it will be a real step forward for the promotion and protection of Animal Rights in your area. Also, keep alert and nurture the policy makers - always remember that what can be made council policy, can be unmade!! This is a personal account, offered in good faith, and is in no way claimed to be the only or even the best way to get an Animal Charter adopted. Good luck.

MORECAMBE DOLPHIN CAMPAIGN

by Bev Cowley

The MDC had been in existence only ten months when, in July 1990, the owner of Marineland announced that Rocky the dolphin was free to go to a home which was acceptable to the campaigners who had fought to close the dolphinarium. Using the power of picketting we were able to negotiate for the freedom of an animal, who for the past 20 years had been no more than capital expenditure on the accounts sheet of a commercial entertainments operation.

Although the speed of the victory came as a surprise to us all, on reflection there were several very obvious reasons for this. In outlining them, I hope this may provide a prescription for future campaigns, or at least some guidelines - but first, a background of Marineland.

The dolphinarium opened in 1965 with six dolphins, sealions, alligators, flamingos, penguins and even chimpanzees (which were housed where the novelty shop now stands). It was seen as a prototype on which the construction of other European dolphinariums would be based. The sad truth was that dolphins had a pitiful survival rate, many only lasting 18 months to 2 years.

In the '60s there was no control over the importation of cetaceans (whales and dolphins), so when one died it was quickly replaced by another dolphin bearing the same name. Thousands of dolphins were slaughtered in order to capture the young ones which were considered suitable for captivity. Successful breeding programmes, not surprisingly, have never materialised. No whales bred in captivity in this country have survived; only two dolphins. This then produced a need to continually replenish stocks from the wild.

Fourteen dolphins have died at Marineland since it opened. Sooty lasted a pitiful 52 days. It was the death of Rocky's mate Lady which sparked the campaign. The circumstances surrounding her death, together with the most damning indictment of dolphinariums stated under oath by the manager of Morecambe Marineland, were to be the best weapons in our fight to win public support. Lady, who was sick when she was transferred from Whipsnade, was expected to perform tricks alongside Rocky. She became pregnant and still she performed until, in September 1989, she haemorrhaged and died. At that time there was no notification of this in the press. The council had not been informed, despite a contractual requirement to do so. Had we not visited Marineland at that time, her death would have passed without question.

Rocky



Prior to the beginning of the Morecambe Dolphin Campaign only one serious attempt to attack the dolphinarium, and what it stood for, has been made. This was in August 1987 when 'our people investigated the possibility of releasing Rocky. They were arrested and charged and all received heavy fines. Since then they have supported the campaign and were all pleased to see Rocky finally taste freedom. It was during their trial that the manager stated that "Dolphins have to be hungry in order for them to perform". This goes against the fallacious propoganda put out by the industry which suggests that dolphins perform because they enjoy it. The manager's words were quoted on leaflets and showed Marineland for what it was. He has now left the country, indicating that there is no place for dolphin trainers here.

The campaign was multi-facetted. At times we seemed to get away from the issue of animal welfare, but there was a need to keep the pressure on what was, after all, a money-making business. Take away profit, or increase costs, and eventually the business becomes unviable.

To begin with we contacted the media; press, radio and television. We publicised the circumstances surrounding the death of Lady. At this time we knew little about dolphins or dolphinariums except that they were wrong. We enlisted the help of Doug Cartlidge, an ex dolphin trainer and now consultant to Zoo Check and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. He had compiled a survey of UK dolphinaria, as had Margaret Klinowska for the Department of the Environment, and these provided valuable information.

The Zoo Licence Act of 1981 is administered through local councils who issue the licences to 'zoos'. We then began lobbying the Environmental Services Committee for the removal of Marineland's licence. The committee received hundreds of letters from people asking them to close Marineland and eventually they resolved that:- "This council disagrees in principle to the use of animals in circus, zoos and dolphinaria" and instructed the town clerk to seek any legal means to prevent performances at Marineland.

March 1990 saw our first national demo and rally. About 650 people supported the action and the procession made its way through Morecambe following two dolphin shaped coffins, symbolising Lady and her calf, carried by coffin bearers in animal costumes. We had a lot of press interest, provoked partly by the fact that

Heathcote Williams came along and recited part of Whale Nation at the rally afterwards. Doug Cartlidge also spoke, as did Dr. Horace Dobbs from International Dolphin Watch, who showed a film about wild dolphins. We hired a large conference centre for the demo, as it was felt that once we had arrived at Marineland, little could be achieved by shouts and chants. The day was, for the most part, a combination of emotion and good humour. The sun shone in Morecambe - a small miracle in itself! and Veggies from Nottingham and Sheffield kept marchers sustained with vegan goodies.

In April, as we had promised, the pickets began. The success was amazing. We turned away between 40% and 80% of the gate, and although occasionally tempers became strained, it was generally reason which won the day. Although initially the pickets were largely made up of Lancaster Animal Rights Group, fear that the pickets would trail off during the summer was unfounded. Groups from Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton and Northampton were immensely supportive and between us we were able to increase the pickets to four per week throughout the peak season. The atmosphere on the pickets was positive and good fun. This had the effect of grinding down staff morale within the dolphinarium. We held weekend vigils and one off 'flying pickets' which all gained good publicity. For those who ran the gauntlet along a stone jetty to watch Rocky performing his inane circus tricks was the constant reminder of what they had paid to see. At the commencement of each show several campaigners scaled the wall running alongside Marineland to unfurl a banner, clearly visible to the audience stating "14 dead dolphins, what price your entertainment?".



We produced badges and tee-shirts for sale outside the dolphinarium and offered children a badge stating "I helped Rocky" if they refused to go into the show. Marineland responded with free dolphin balloons for those who went in. They only stood the cost for one day.

As well as the pickets, we questioned the safety of their fire escape, bringing pressure to revamp the building. They were reported to the Health and Safety Officer for the condition of their toilets. We contacted Consumer Protection regarding the inaccuracy of advertising material. This we removed from tourism offices (in bulk). We forced structural changes to comply with other health and safety requirements, as well as the conditions attached to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act. Finally we notified the public of admission increases, the briefness of the show and the fact that they would get better value for money elsewhere. With a business which was already failing, this undue attention brings inordinate pressure to bear, even if it seems a long way from the plight of Rocky and the other animals. Rocky did his bit by going on strike from time to time and sending his beach ball over the wall to us, which we burst or lost.

Tourism rallied to Marineland's aid and the question of the council's continued support of the dolphinarium was debated at a meeting of full council. I was offered the opportunity to speak for five minutes and we held an 80 strong demo at the Town Hall. The result was some of the most amazing set of speeches against captive animals that I have ever heard Councillors make. The vote was all but three in favour of removal of Marineland's publicity from council literature, one voted against, two abstained. We were all thrilled and held an impromptu picket at Marineland after the meeting. The following day the owner announced that Rocky would be leaving Morecambe at the end of the season and negotiations between ourselves and the owner began.

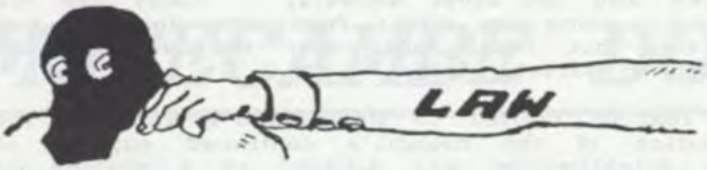
There came a point when we needed to bring in a larger organisation to facilitate the setting up of a rehabilitation project. Zoo Check took on the negotiations and through their contacts with the Mail on Sunday were able to raise £120,000 to fund the 'Into the Blue Project'. Many like myself feel betrayed that our work has not been recognised since this project began. Politically I feel that it is easier to suggest that money buys freedom and not determination and compassion, but MDC accepts that the point at which we handed over Rocky's future was a point at which we had not the resources or the know how to give him the best, which is what he deserves. I would however say to anyone who feels passionately about anything that it does not take vast sums of money (though it helps!), it just takes a little imagination and a group of determined people in order for it to succeed. Rocky is in the Turks and Caicos Islands because of animal rights campaigners and that is payment and gratitude in itself. We are now working to secure homes for the rest of the animals at Marineland and have turned our attention to Flamingoland.

While we work for the three dolphins in North Yorkshire, Rocky swims for the first time in 20 years where he belongs - in the ocean.

For more information about the Flamingoland Dolphin Campaign contact FDC c/o MDC, PO Box 63, Lancaster LA1 4GD.

Freedom - Rocky in the Blue





Ronnie Lee: serving a 10 year prison sentence for conspiracy to cause arson, conspiracy to commit criminal damage and conspiracy to incite others to cause criminal damage, all in connection with being the press officer for the ALF. Ronnie Lee, V02682, LB2 Clyde, HMP Channings Wood, Denbury, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 6DW.

Simon Russell: sentenced to two 30 month prison sentences for making and possessing incendiary devices intended for use on the vehicle of the huntsman that broke Simon's leg by beating him with a stick on a hunt sab. The two sentences run concurrently. Also sentenced to 18 months for violent disorder on the poll tax riot last year, making it a 4 year sentence in all. Simon Russell, ND1666, Lakes Wing, HMP The Mount, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0NZ.

Jerry Stokes: serving a 6 month prison sentence for animal rights actions. Expected to be released by the time this issue is out.

Gary Norris: serving a 7 month jail sentence for threatening behaviour on hunt sabs. Will be released by the time this mag is out.

Neil Theobald: on bail on charges of arson and criminal damage in connection with incidents in Portsmouth and Southampton when slaughterhouse and meat trade vehicles were set on fire.

Brampton Three: Michael Shanahan, Gari Allen and Barry Horne are on bail charged with having explosives after incendiary devices were found in a car driven by one of the three.

Martin Masterman-Lister: charged with arson after a horsebox, used to transport horses to a fox-hunt, was set on fire in Hampshire.

Donations towards fines, court costs and help for prisoners, for any of the above, can be made to ALF SG, BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX

Cheshire Hunt Kennels: 38 people have been charged with riot following the demonstration at the Cheshire Beagle kennels following the death of Mike Hill. The kennels was the home of Mike's killer, huntsman Alan Summersgill. Donations to the bust fund can be sent to Wolves HSA, Box H, Students Union, Wolverhampton Poly, Wulfruna St, Wolverhampton.

Boots 43: following the inspection of Boots laboratories in Nottingham by the Animal Liberation Investigation Unit, and the resulting charges of burglary, damage and public disorder, defendants who refused to be bound over return to court on 7th May. Donations for the defendants can be sent to ALIU, PO Box 87, Rochdale, Lancs OL16 1AA.

Horse and Hound Ball: 13 people were charged with public order offences following the demonstration outside the annual Horse and Hound Ball in London, resulting in bind overs and fines for those whose cases have already been to court.

USA: Jonathon Paul, Bill Keogh and Cres Vellucci have been arrested for the liberation of 260 animals and the destruction of 3 labs at the University of Oregon in 1986. The trial is due to start on May 21st.



MIKE HILL

At 4pm. Saturday 9th February 1991, Mike Hill became the first hunt saboteur to be killed whilst trying to protect hares from sick sadists in uniforms of blue and red belonging to the Cheshire Beagle Hunt. Mike was only 18 years old and for the last 2 years lived and breathed animal rights, not just dogs and cats but every living creature. He was a practising vegan, worked at both Heavens Gate Sanctuary and Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre, was an active Hunt Saboteur with Yeovil Hunt Sabs and then Merseyside Hunt Sabs as well as attending national anti-vivisection demos like the Perrycroft march.

Mike was too nice a person for this world. There was not hurt nor malice in his soul. He thought good of everyone and everything. He was quiet, unassuming, softly spoken and gentle with those abandoned animals in his care. Yet he was always bursting with new ideas, new plans and new actions. His youthful energy and commitment knew no bounds. He lived and he died for his beliefs. Hundreds gathered for his funeral in Yeovil to pay their last respects to Mike. Although nothing can bring Mike back to us, we can all ensure that the Cheshire Beagle Hunt kill no more hares - Mike would have smiled at that and then perhaps his killing can find some meaning. Our thoughts must go out to Brian and Jean, his parents, who have had to absorb so much in so short a space of time.

(by Freshfields Animal Sanctuary)



SUE MERRIKIN

Sue Merrikin, one of the greatest ever ALF activists, died from cancer in Nottingham on March 11th at the age of 45. Sue became active in the ALF in the early eighties and was soon organizing some of the most important direct actions that have ever taken place, perhaps the very best of these being when she used an old van to smash through the security doors of the closely-guarded Safepharm laboratories near Derby to enable members of her group to rescue guinea pigs from torture there. Sue had appeared in court in connection with a previous Safepharm raid when the lab was smashed up and rabbits rescued, but the most serious charges laid against her were those of robbery following a raid on a laboratory animal supplier near Doncaster where a variety of different animals were rescued from appalling conditions. Sue had taken off her balaclava to calm down a woman at the farm who had gone into hysterics and so was recognised - but in a rare moment of judicial compassion the judge threw out the charges against her.

It wasn't just in the larger actions that Sue excelled, however, as it was constant small-scale attacks by her group that drove the fur trade completely out of Nottingham. The last fur shop put up thick shutters to try to ensure its survival, but activists used a sledgehammer to smash through them. But Sue's fight for the animals didn't just include direct action and as well as being the founder of the Nottingham Animal Rights Confederation she took part in many other campaigns in addition to running a sanctuary at her home for cats and other animals, which was still operating at the time of her death.

Sue's courage and high principles were also evident in the fight against her disease as when she discovered she had cancer she went into battle against it using holistic medicine rather than allow animal tested drugs to be used upon her. For a while it looked as if she was winning the struggle but sadly it was not to be. The movement has lost a great fighter whose robust, no-nonsense approach to the battle of animal liberation was and still remains a tremendous inspiration. In her memory, and in admiration for her courage, those of us who had the privilege of knowing her will fight even harder until the animals are free.

(by Ronnie Lee)

DAVY BARR

Davy Barr took his own life on the 16th March 1991 in his flat in Glasgow, Scotland. To say "took" his life doesn't sound very fair to me because in my opinion he was pushed into it by the police, the state and by other pressures like the slaughter of animals etc. There were a lot of people in the Animal Rights Movement who didn't understand Davy and I'm not going to go into details to try and explain it to them. I had the honour of getting one of his letters whilst he was incarcerated in prison in 1988 for animal rights activities. We used to write to each other quite regularly and it was decided that whoever got out between us first (as I was also in prison at the time), then they'd visit the other. As it turned out Davy got out first and no sooner had a visiting order been sent out, he was there - a round trip of 700 miles or more for a ½ hour's visit. He was always supporting other animal rights prisoners and there was never a word of prejudice against anyone. Not only was he eating, breathing, shitting animal rights, he was also anti-fascist and had campaigned against the racism and sexism that is rife throughout our society today. Here's an exerpt from one of his last letters to me which I'd like to end on. "Remember Gari they can set us up, shit on us and even kill us, but so long as there are Gari Allens in their world they'll win nothing but contempt and anger, I love you my friend, big brother, if nothing else I care for you - tomorrow may never come but if nothing else, some of us didn't stop trying, Yours for ever - Davy XXX". Well the animals have lost a true friend and so have I. No Davy! Some of us will never stop trying!

(by Gari Allen)

The Truth Surrounding Mike Hill's Death

(by the Merseyside Hunt Saboteurs)

On the 9th February Merseyside Hunt Saboteurs attended the meet of the Cheshire Beagles at Little Budworth, Cheshire. The 20 sabs from Merseyside had successfully sabbed the hunt all day, despite being attacked by hunt heavies earlier on in the day. At 3.15pm the hunt congregated around the hound van 3 or so miles away from the meet. Various scuffles ensued between the sabs and the hunt. The driver of the hound van, Alan Summersgill, was unable to control his emotions and laid into the sabs with the aid of a wheel brace. The sabs, believing the hunt to be regrouping in order to hunt elsewhere, blocked the path of the pick-up truck and trailer containing the hounds. 3 sabs, including Mike Hill, climbed onto the back of the pick-up truck in order to prevent it from moving off. Summersgill moved off at top speed with the sabs on board. They estimated that he was travelling at speeds upwards of 80 mph around the country lanes of Cheshire for over 5 miles. Despite efforts to get him to stop, he wouldn't. The sabs were scared and decided that they would disembark when the vehicle stopped. As the vehicle slowed to turn a corner, Mike jumped and was dragged beneath the trailer in tow. Even now Summersgill refused to stop. The sabs had to smash the rear window in the pick-up before Summersgill stopped and even then they were attacked by Summersgill's passenger. The sabs ran back to where Mike was lying, the pick-up drove off at top speed in the opposite direction. Mike was dead.

At present no charges have been brought against Summersgill. Compare this to the 30 or so people who are on Section 1 charges for venting their anger on the kennels of the Cheshire Beagles. Is this justice? Mike Hill is the first animal rights activist to be killed by the animal abusers. He probably won't be the last. Mike's dead and they're still killing. Merseyside Hunt Saboteurs and Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre would like to thank all those for their support during these difficult times. Please remember the Mike Hill Memorial Fund which will directly benefit animals at Freshfield Animal Rescue Centre where he worked (Mike Hill Memorial Fund, Freshfield Animal Rescue Centre, East Lodge Farm, Ince Blundel, Merseyside), and the defence fund set up to pay the legal fees of the 38 people arrested at the kennels (see 'Law' section).

COMMENT

SOME LESSONS FROM OUR LOSS

by Ronnie Lee

With the recent deaths of Mike Hill, Sue Merrikin and Davy Barr the movement has lost three important and committed activists and the animals three of their dearest friends. It is indeed a tragedy for the struggle against animal persecution that these three good people should all have died within such a short space of time and that sadness is redoubled for those of us who knew personally one or more of them. Their lives were not in vain, however, as each of them made a significant contribution to the battle for animal liberation and if we can learn something from their deaths then neither will those have been in vain.

At Their Peril

The killing of Mike Hill should cause us to think immediately as to the reasons why that tragic event took place. What was it that caused the huntsman to speed away so rapidly, so putting the lives of the hunt saboteurs in such danger? Without doubt it was because he felt confident that he would get away with it. To my mind Mike's tragic death is yet another example of where the widespread philosophy of "non-violence" is putting the lives of animal rights activists in danger. One only needs to have a brief understanding of the psychology of animal abusers to see how this is the case. A person who abuses defenceless animals (whether that person be a hunter, a vivisector, a circus thug or whatever) is obviously a bully (and therefore also a coward). The non-violence of the animals does not prevent such people carrying out attacks on them and indeed their violence is encouraged by the defencelessness of the victim, just as a school bully will tend to pick on the weakest member of the class. Therefore if members and supporters of the hunt believe that hunt saboteurs are "non-violent" and unable to stand up for themselves they will actually feel encouraged to carry out attacks against the sabs or to put their lives in danger.

The best way for us all in the movement to prevent a repetition of what happened to Mike Hill and to reduce the escalating number of attacks carried out against hunt saboteurs and other animal rights campaigners is for us to scrap the non-violence nonsense and to create a situation where all animal abusers know that if they attack us it will be at their peril. Just a couple of days after Mike's death a group of A/R activists attacked and badly damaged the house of the huntsman who ran over him. This obviously would act as a deterrent to any other hunter wishing to behave violently towards hunt saboteurs, but what I am advocating in this article is a perfectly legal solution.

One has the right in law to defend oneself and others, using reasonable force, from any act of aggresssion and therefore I am urging that all A/R campaigners (especially hunt saboteurs) take up self-defence training. In most areas one can find evening classes which teach self-defence and I would urge that all local A/R and hunt sab groups attend them as a group in order to learn the knowledge, skills and attitude of mind required. One can also get books on self-defence techniques which would form a useful addition to such classes. This would all probably demand a couple of hours of one's time each week, but it would be time well spent if it leads to people being able to defend themselves properly from animal-abuser aggression and to bring about a change of image in the movement which would deter such aggression from occurring in the first place.

The intention is not for A/R campaigners to violently attack animal abusers, but for the animal abusers to know that if they violently attack any of us they will rapidly get their come-uppance. Thus with hunt thugs etc. being too frightened to attack, the amount of violence on hunts (and at such things as anti-circus demonstrations) will be considerably reduced. I'm well aware this is the philosophy of deterrence - but when you are dealing with bullies and cowards it is the only thing that works. A knowledge of self-defence would not have prevented Mike from being tragically run over, but a knowledge that the A/R movement could and would stand up for itself may well have prevented the huntsman from behaving dangerously in the first place. It's time to change the image of "wimps in sandles" to "people you don't mess with or you get what for"!

Fit for the Fight

The tragedy of Sue's death was that she was only 45 with so much more living to enjoy and battles to fight for the animals. But for many years she had been a heavy smoker and drinker and there is really no doubt that this is what led to her early death. From this we can all draw a lesson, however, for having known Sue as a good friend I know she would wish no other animal liberationist to go down the same road to an early grave. It horrifies me how many A/R campaigners smoke, drink to excess and even take harmful drugs and how many of them get little or no exercise to keep themselves fit. Quite apart from how concerned I am for those people in a personal level it is obvious to me that as the movement is a collection of individuals, so the fitness of those individuals for



The Vegan

the struggle is of vital importance to our success. If someone makes themself ill through abusing their body or by neglecting their fitness, the contribution they can make to the movement becomes considerably reduced - and there is nothing better than an unhealthy, unfit vegan or vegetarian for persuading people to carry on eating meat.

To be aware of the terrible suffering of the animals can be very stressful and depressing and some A/R people might argue that they smoke and/or drink to deal with that depression and stress. That is a nonsense argument, however, as there are other healthy ways of dealing with such negative feelings. Take exercise for instance. A good bout of exercise produces chemical changes in the body which actually create a feeling of well-being and so helps not only the body but also the mind. One of the ways I have staved off stress and depression in prison is by taking the best part of an hours vigorous exercise almost every day - and it is something I intend to continue when I get out as the time taken up by the exercise is more than made up for by the strength and fitness it gives me (both physically and mentally) to carry on with and to increase my work. To claim one is "too busy" to take exercise is a very false economy indeed. If we can be fitter and healthier than the animal abusers we have yet another advantage over them. So let's make sure we are all of us fit for the fight!

Lives Worth Living

Of the three deaths perhaps Davy Barr's was the most tragic as he took his own life. We will all of us have great empathy with him as I would wager there is not one among us who has not at one time or another contemplated suicide as an escape from a world made almost unbearable by the suffering inflicted upon the animals for whom we care so much. But of course the very worst thing we could do for the animals would be to kill ourselves and so deprive them of those who could fight for their liberation. The persecution of animals can drive us into the depths of unhappiness, but the fight for their freedom can give us back at least some happiness and an important reason for living.

Despite the sadness it brings, to be aware of the evil of animal persecution and to be involved in the battle against it is truly a reason to be alive. What reason for living do ordinary unenlightened people have, dragging out their tiny meaningless lives, changing nothing, achieving nothing, merely taking up space in an already grossly overcowded world? As I look out of the window of a train, gazing down on a town or city, and see all the rows and rows of houses stretching to the distance my mind recoils in horror with the thought "How can they stand to live?", "How can there be enough within their lives to make it worth the effort?" Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust.

But for us it is different. To be involved in the most fundamental liberation movement the world has ever known, to be part of a struggle which will end aeons of tyranny and usher in a Golden Age when the jackboot of human imperialism will no longer stamp on all the other animals - that is indeed a reason for living. To fight and to triumph, and to triumph in a victory like no other victory, a victory which liberates all the other creatures of the Earth. There can be no better reason. Davy Barr's short life was dedicated to the animals. He worked for them, fought for them, went to prison for them and he is, and will be, a part of that great victory. But so much more would he be so were he still alive.

"THE REAL ANGELS"

by Conchita

(in Australia)

It is sad to read constant condemnation of the ALF, from so called animal rights people. The core of the matter as I see it, depends on which side of the fence you are sitting on. If you are an animal screaming for help in a blood drenched slaughterhouse, or in terminal bondage of stereotaxic restraining chairs, would you be so critical of your savers?

The ALF are unpaid soldiers, risking their freedom to save others. Does it matter what kind of life they save? Soldiers at war are getting medals for doing the same thing! The ALF has never harmed anyone. At this very moment people are blowing each other apart, and we call them brave!!!

Wake up to yourselves and leave the ALF to do the job they must do. The ALF are the heroes of tomorrow and without them we would be in the dark as to what goes on behind closed doors. To all of you unknown people wherever you are, my heart goes out to you. You who risk your freedom to save others, you are the real angels.

In closing I would like to quote Martin Luther King Jr -

"Cowardice asks the question, Is it safe?
Expediency asks the question, Is it politic?
Vanity asks the question, Is it popular?

But conscience asks the question, Is it right?
And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him that it is right...."



"Are you sure it's not another awful experiment?"

WHAT PRICE VIOLENCE?

by Jim Hepburn

It is easy to laugh at Richard Ryder worrying about causing pain to any and all sentient creatures, "even the machines of the future if we have grounds for suspecting that they are conscious". What tender-hearted forethought! It is almost as easy to laugh at Robin Webb and his spiders that would get killed in burning down a broiler shed. Imagine your average hunt sab van tearing across the countryside with sabs inside (no speciesists they) quite as concerned about the snakes, toads, spiders and worms they are killing as the foxes they are saving!

On the other hand, Nancy Phipps is not funny at all. She says "good riddance" to dead animal abusers, and just to make sure we take her seriously she includes "child molesters, rapists and National Front" people. "They are all scum", she adds, echoing language we have heard about homosexuals, Communists, police, Tories, Christians, Serbs and all other collective objects of blind anger and self-righteousness. Nor is Barry Horne funny. He says that either you get animal abusers where they live, as with a car bomb, or you do something useless, such as handing out leaflets. "The object of this (Bristol) car bomb was surely to prevent this particular vivisector from continuing his evil work. It was surely therefore morally right." Two surely's, one therefore: how could he possibly be wrong? With similar self-confidence we could kill off all the evil people in the world, and live thereafter in eternal peace. Just as vegans.

Between the funny and the unfunny a question arises: what am I to make of the welter of opinions that the admirable no-censorship policy of Arkangel permits? My first thought is that AR people must be as diverse as (let's say) the police or vivisectors - some good, some bad, some other things. Some good vivisectors? Some bad AR people? I must be joking! Well, no. My worst-scenario is of the bad AR person planting a car bomb that kills a good vivisector. What price violence? Some people are bloody-minded from first days to last. Some are not. I know of a young woman who trained in biology and got a job in biology, and for several years she did vivisection, and gradually she decided that vivisection was wrong and she gave it up and began to campaign against it. Was she an evil woman who became a good woman, or is the issue more complicated and in the sum of things she was possibly a good woman even in her days of vivisection? I myself became a vegetarian when I was sixty years old and a vegan when sixty-six. Lucky me that in my meat-eating days some virtuous AR extremist didn't decide that I deserved to die.

My second thought about the welter of opinions goes with the first: I prefer thoughtful conviction and thoughtful doubt to violent self-righteousness. As between Robin Webb and Barry Horne it is easy to choose. Webb argues his way through complex and contradictory issues, and at the end he thinks there is still arguing to do. He may be mulling things over for the rest of his life, and I think that is all to the good. In contrast, Barry Horne seems to have arrived at the end of thought. He is the realist and his opponents are fantasists and hysterics. The things his opponents say are ludicrous, amazing, disgusting and ridiculous (all his very own adjectives). How he reminds me of the unchanging taxi-driver in Private Eye: he says we should destroy the property of animal abusers; "this is the only language they understand"!

I think the price of violence is the hardening of hearts: our enemies', our friends', our own. The process is not necessarily irreversible. That woman gave up vivisection, and maybe some AR people will give up car bombs.

"SET THINE HOUSE IN ORDER" (Isaiah xxxviii)

by Margaret House

(RSPCA Members' Watchdog - expelled from RSPCA 1987)

I am writing in response to the very interesting and stimulating articles by Richard Ryder on "Sentientism" and Robin Webb on "Violence" in Arkangel number 4.

I disagree with Robin that the RSPCA Council has offered clear guidance on the use of violence by adopting a policy that condemns premeditated actions that endanger life carried out by animal rights groups. How can an organisation that openly condones actions that endanger life possibly be in a position to condemn or preach on moral issues? Just a few years ago, at the RSPCA Annual General meeting, the then RSPCA Chairperson proclaimed her fondness for eating the flesh of other sentient creatures. Was she not supporting the premeditated violence against life that takes place in a slaughterhouse? Only last year, the RSPCA Council members went to Westminster Abbey for a Thanksgiving and Rededication Service to mark the 150th anniversary of being able to use "Royal" in the Society's title. After listening to extracts from the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the flesh eaters amongst them went to a reception where slices of their "brothers and sisters" were served up on a plate. I wonder what they thought that the lines from Isaiah "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain", read by the Chief Executive meant? The RSPCA Council failed to expel Michael Colvin MP, the well known promoter of foxhunting and Life member of the RSPCA. Do not hunters undertake premeditated actions which endanger life? (Michael Colvin has since resigned due to the protests from animal rights groups.)

The criticism by the RSPCA Council of animal rights groups seems even more hypocritical when the Council's actions against dedicated individuals are concerned. Many members have been expelled from the RSPCA, expelled from RSPCA branches and been refused branch membership by branch committees. These individuals have NOT broken the law and they have NOT been cruel to animals. Quite the opposite - they are well known for their commitment to the protection and care of animals. In my view, the "trials" conducted by the RSPCA Council and by branch committees constitute mental torture for

BAND OF MERCY

by Robin Webb

Since writing my recent article on the morality of violence in pursuit of animals' rights (Arkangel 4) I have received an introductory mail-out and the first press release from a group calling themselves The Band of Mercy. As The Band of Mercy's stated aims and my discourse have much in common may I make it clear that I had no prior knowledge of this new organisation and also, although welcoming any new force in our struggle on behalf of other species, express certain reservations about them.

Both the letter and press release told of the 170 broiler chickens which they claim "were rescued from seven different poultry farms in the South of England". Unlike any 'direct action' press release I have seen before the farms were not identified. Any activist would realise that the media would need such basic information. How else can the media, or anyone else, check whether the claims are true?

They say that the name 'The Band of Mercy' was chosen as it was the ALF's original title and that "by resurrecting this name we are re-affirming our commitment to non-violence...the use of...arson would be entirely contrary to our beliefs". This seems to be nonsense as the first actions by the original Band of Mercy once they widened their interest from purely anti-bloodsports were arson attacks on pharmaceutical companies, seal culling boats and several other targets. Why try to rewrite history?

I am concerned that what this new group has written seems to be an attempt to divide those who, rightly or wrongly, support the ALF. We have enough divisions in our movement without any more. In any case, following the rescue of 50 cats from a breeding centre used by Oxford University the 'Oxford Times' (2.1.91) reported that "(an ALF spokesperson) warned that if the cattery was re-stocked, the ALF would take 'non-violent action' to ensure that the site could never be used again, but ruled out bomb or fire attacks". So, what is the difference between the ALF and the new Band of Mercy?

Both the ALF and the new Band of Mercy claim to exist solely to take illegal action, therefore neither may have identified contacts. However, both have supporting organisations. The Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group has a BCM number address which is run by a private company that guarantees confidentiality. Supporters of the new group (how can they have got supporters before actually doing anything? The original Band of Mercy/ALF had been going for about 9 years before the SG was formed) have formed Friends of the Band of Mercy with a standard PO Box number. Anyone can walk into the Brighton post office and ask for the name and address of the holder of any box number. Even if a false name and address is given it wouldn't take much detective work to track them down. Are they just not very bright or do they have no illegal connections to hide?

Much of the terminology used in the letter and press release is reminiscent of calls over the past year or so to boycott the ALF, to turn away from such activities and (more importantly?) to give your donations to more deserving causes.

Am I wrong? Am I being unfair? Am I being too suspicious? I don't know, all I do know is that until I have more information about the new Band of Mercy and see reports of what they have definitely done I shall continue to live with my reservations.

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the victims. Is not that a form of violence? Does it not endanger life to treat individuals so badly that the victims can never forget the humiliation and injustice of their treatment?

I hate to disagree with Robin on yet another point. The RSPCA's front line of defence for non human animals is most definitely not their Inspectorate. The RSPCA Inspectors have very limited opportunities to defend non human animals. For example, the Inspectors have no access to laboratories where by far the largest number of animals suffer. There is inadequate protection under the law for non human animals and as Robin says, the Inspectors can only act within the law. It has been the animal rights groups who have made the progress in uncovering and exposing animal abuse. The front line of the RSPCA is composed of their Education Officers for they can teach children to respect all life.



The RSPCA is a vastly wealthy organisation. A lot of the wealth is held in the branches. In some cases hundreds of thousands of pounds are held in investments and in many other branches tens of thousands of pounds are held. If money was poured into education in schools a great deal could be achieved - this was apparent when Richard Ryder was Chairperson of the RSPCA and the Education Department was a vital force. Since then the Education Department was decimated.

So, whether violence against sentient beings takes place within or without the law is irrelevant to the question posed by Robin - "Is violence in the pursuit of Animals' Rights morally justifiable?" In my opinion, Richard Ryder's quote from Confucius is relevant to the moral validity of using violence in the pursuit and protection of animals' rights -

"What you do not want done to yourself do not do to others".

Only the individual can decide whether the action being contemplated is morally justifiable.

Arguing for animals

by David Lane

Consistency

We in the Animal Rights movement ought to have a single and unifying aim - that is, to bring about an end to animal abuse. Sounds simple enough doesn't it? But you've probably been to meetings where activists in leather shoes hand round animal fat digestives and offer you coffee with cow's milk... It's a familiar story! Have you ever seen hunt saboteurs wearing knee-high Dr. Martens? Of course you have. The aim may well be clear, but there is clearly a lack of consistency in our approach.

Almost everyone involved in our movement will spend a good deal of time arguing the issues with the unenlightened masses who, on the whole, would rather remain in ignorance of the horrors that lurk behind their food, drugs and entertainment. People are not exactly queueing up to go vegan, they would prefer to be comfortably numb to the reality of their lifestyle, but if you've managed to get them thinking about the abuse of animals and the case for Animal Rights - at least you are in with a chance of affecting their attitude and habits. But because people generally resist change they will often go to great lengths to expose the flaws in your arguments and in your own lifestyle.

Try to convince anyone of the case for Animal Rights and they will inevitably start looking for inconsistencies in your own position. You oppose hunting, but what about angling? You condemn fur-wearing rich women, but what about leather-wearing hunt sabs? You think the veal trade disgusting, but what about the dairy industry which supplies it? If you are thought a hypocrite you won't be able to persuade anybody of anything - the argument will stop right there. Do you believe that the National Health Service is safe in the hands of politicians who use private health care?

The need for consistency doesn't only apply to individuals. National organisations which appear to promote double standards do the movement no good at all. Explaining why Lynx do not oppose the use of leather, a spokesperson recently claimed that while people continue to eat meat it would be disrespectful to the animal if its skin was wasted! Do they really think it matters to the cow? Presumably they would support the wearing of rabbit-skin coats providing the rest of the rabbits had been eaten? When a member of the fur trade accused Lynx of hypocrisy on 'Kilroy' he was right - and we were all tarred with the same brush! And even the more militant Hunt Saboteurs Association recommends the use of reconstituted dried blood for the laying of false trails. Are they advocating boosting the profitability of the meat trade in order to help save foxes?

So consistency is vital when arguing for an end to animal abuse, but we still get the objections; "I hate soya milk", "Plastic shoes make my feet sweat", "I only buy free-range eggs", "At least fish swim around free before they're caught". And so on, and on... But please, let's get things into perspective, it's not that difficult to become vegan. Taste is acquired and you will probably get to like soya milk, feet will get used to plastic or canvas shoes, and it <u>is</u> quite possible to live without eggs!

I must stress that it is those who <u>campaign</u> for Animal Rights who must be consistent. I have heard it said many times that to be against fishing, leather or the dairy industry weakens our case. People will be 'put off' if we are too 'extreme'. But that is to miss the point. If you wish to campaign against fur but not leather - fine, but that is no cause for <u>you</u> to wear leather, and if asked why you won't wear it, explain that its use contributes to the abuse of animals by lowering the price of meat by about 10%, and cheaper meat means the death of more animals.

The Arguments

When arguing the case for Animal Rights it is quite normal for a discussion to wander through a whole variety of different areas; health, medicine, science, religion, ethics, philosophy, changing from one to the other as your opponents try to justify their support of animal abuse. It might go something like, "Well, we may not <u>need</u> to eat animals but what about drugs, <u>they've</u> got to be tested haven't they? Thalidomide? Okay, but doesn't the bible say animals were put on earth for our benefit? Thou shalt not kill? Well okay, but God really meant humans, didn't he?"...

Doonesbury BY GARRY TRUDEAU



The Animal Rights movement has developed convincing arguments and has gathered a great wealth of evidence to discredit vivisection as a way of conducting medical research. Similarly, evidence that eating and drinking animal products can cause health problems mounts daily. But it is not enough to show that using animals for human ends can hurt humans. It was interesting to witness the outcry caused recently by a BUAV spokesman who said that some animal experimentation in the past may have resulted in some benefits for humans. It was as if the whole anti-vivisection position depended on the 'failure' of medical and scientific research! Suppose for a moment that next week a vivisector were to <u>prove</u> that in causing animals pain he could, without ill-effect, benefit humans. Would that work be acceptable to us? Remember that the Nazis performed horrific pressure chamber experiments on human beings in research on high-altitude flight. Their results contributed greatly to advance in aviation, but surely nobody would argue that such experiments were in any way justified, or that similar methods should ever be used again. We reject the methods for moral and ethical reasons - not scientific validity.

While it may be useful to appeal to human self-interest, we really need to look at the philosophy behind Animal Rights if we want to show people how they <u>ought</u> to treat animals regardless of what is expedient or profitable, and it is in this area that the arguments most need developing.

<u>The Meaning of Animal Rights</u>

I think it is unfortunate that we use the label 'Animal Rights' to describe our movement. The word 'Rights' provides those who oppose our aims with an easy target to attack, and it allows them to divert attention from the real issues.

Do you remember the televised debate on the motion "Animals need a Bill of Rights" in which Mary Warnock and Germaine Greer put the philosophical case against the motion? Mary Warnock argued that since rights are a human invention they therefore can have no possible meaning for non-humans. By rambling on at great length about Property Rights her intention was to make the idea of animals having any kind of rights at all seem quite laughable. Germaine Greer wanted to know where we would draw the line - should malaria-carrying mosquitoes have rights, she asked? And what about rights for amoebas? I recall being very disappointed that the speakers for the motion seemed quite unable or unwilling to counter these deliberate and cynical distractions.

The problem lies with the term 'Rights'. The word invites ridicule from those who want to present us as either well-meaning but misguided 'animal lovers', or bomb-planting, acid-throwing terrorists. So what are 'Rights'? Animals, be they human or non-human, do not enter the world possessing them. Rights are not an inherent characteristic like eyes or toes! Consider a person living alone on a desert island, what rights do they have? They have none; the very idea is ridiculous because there is no one from whom to claim them. But if a second person was to join the first then the possibility of each endowing the other with certain rights immediately arises. Mary Warnock was at least partially correct, rights are to do with a form of contract, a promise to act in a particular way, not things which <u>naturally</u> belong to living creatures.

Would it be meaningful to grant rights to animals? It is often claimed that rights can only exist if the 'contract' is mutual - the one to whom rights are given must at the very least be aware of the claims of others. It is argued that the 'contract' is a social one, binding upon all members but irrelevant to those not in the club. However, it is clear that our society does confer rights upon those who are not able or not willing to reciprocate. People born with most of their brain missing, who have no potential to live a 'normal' life, are recognised as having many of the same rights as you and I. Amoral humans who commit murder or rape retain certain basic rights even though they refuse to recognise the rights of others. Society certainly grants some rights to some animals, but in principle, there is nothing to prevent society endowing oak trees with certain rights!



But if we accept that rights can be granted to non-humans, we are forced to face up to Germaine Greer's questions - what rights do we want to confer upon animals, and where will we draw the line? "Rats have Rights!" says the slogan, and you may not want them experimented upon or poisoned in the sewers, but what about mosquitoes, or fleas? A consistent theory of Animal Rights must not end with the furry creatures, it must be based upon logic and common sense, not emotion.

I said earlier that the use of the term 'Rights' allows our opponents to divert attention from the moral issues, but it is important to see it as a label and not necessarily as a description of our position. The Conservative Party are not bound to be conservative, nor are Catholics always catholic in their ways! So if we put aside the word 'Rights' how do we proceed to show that animals ought to be treated other than as objects - to be used at our whim for any human end?

<u>Interests</u>

In his book 'Animal Liberation', Peter Singer argues that animals ought to be shown <u>equal consideration</u> whenever their interests conflict with those of humans. This raises two important questions; <u>what</u> interests do animals have, and <u>why</u> ought we to consider them?

Of course it will be claimed that two humans can communicate their interests to one another, and since both share common experiences it is argued that these interests are well known and understood and can be universally respected - at least in theory. But, it is said, we can know nothing of the interests of animals. This may be true, but we could also claim that one human cannot be <u>absolutely</u> certain that another human has consciousness, or can feel pain, or can suffer. Based on the evidence of our experience, we <u>believe</u> they can, or we think it extremely <u>probable</u> that they can, and so we act accordingly.

So what about animals? What can we say about their interests? Are there certain basic interests common to all animals including humans? I have to believe there are. Animals, by definition, are living creatures which must eat, breathe and respond to their surroundings in order to remain alive. Observing their behaviour certainly leads me to suppose that animals act in a way which is consistent with a desire to avoid being killed, and to avoid being subjected to stimuli which in humans would cause pain. I do not know beyond any doubt whether animals can feel pain or whether they have consciousness or self-awareness, but I think it highly probable that to varying extents they can and do. But of course I do not have to know. Even if I were to think it only faintly possible that a rock could feel pain I would avoid kicking it simply because I have no wish to cause anything unnecessary suffering!

So what matters is not whether I know if animals have interests, but whether I think it possible that they have. It is for those who claim the oppostite to prove their case beyond any doubt whatsoever! Further, I would argue that humans do, in practice, act as if animals have interests. The existence of a complex nervous system in all vertebrates suggests that they can experience pain, and to some small extent for some 'higher' mammals this is reflected in some legislation designed to prevent some suffering. Put simply, it is unlawful to seriously mistreat dogs and a few other furry creatures!

But, and more importantly from a moral standpoint, the vast majority of humans act in such a way that suggests they believe even the 'lowest' animal has interests. Humans appear to value animals in a way that they do not value inanimate objects. For example, most humans would avoid kicking (or 'damaging') an animal lying in the street - not because of any possible loss to themselves or other humans, as might be the case with a famous painting, but because they believe the animal has an inherent worth which results from its very existence as a living being.

Do Unto Others

If animals have, or possibly have, interests, how ought we to treat them? Perhaps we should begin by looking at how humans believe they ought to treat each other. Whether or not a religious basis is claimed, we generally start from the principle "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". If simple self-interest is not always the motive then the principle must be this; if you feel that an action directed towards you is wrong then it is equally wrong to subject another to the same action. We imagine ourselves in the place of another.

Of course to suggest that we imagine ourselves in the place of an animal is to invite the charge of 'anthropomorphism' - thinking of animals as human, and possibly there are people who believe it in the interests of dogs to dress them in the latest doggy fashions. But to dismiss the 'Do Unto Others' principle if applied to animals as anthropomorphic is to miss the point. The principle simply asks that you consider the interests of another and act accordingly, and it is necessary only to believe that the 'other' has, or may have, interests in order to apply the principle. The principle does not depend upon the species of the 'other' any more than it depends upon sex or race.

Conflicting Interests

You have heard the old 'Your Child Or A Dog' cliche - your child and a dog are both drowning, which would you save first? I've lost count of the number of times this one has come up in debate! It is used because the questioner smuggly thinks that they've got you! If you answer "the dog" then you are patently loony and are not to be taken seriously, and if you answer "your child" then you are obviously as 'speciesist' as they are, you have discriminated in favour of a human! But have you? Turn the question back on them and alter it slightly - if your son and an aboriginal girl were both drowning, which would you save first? Should I accuse them of racism or sexism if they were to choose to save their son? Of course not! No one would blame them for putting the interests of their son before those of another child. Similarly I would find no problem in choosing between the life of my child and a dog simply because I value my child's life above the dog's.

Peter Singer is right to claim that in any conflict of interests between humans and animals the interests of animals must always be considered. That is not to say that the outcome must inevitably favour the human or the animals, but that a decision is made which takes into account the interests of both. It is the almost universal disregard for animals in any conflict which gives rise to the tremendous strength of feeling in the Animal Rights movement.

The very act of living involves any creature in a constant stream of clashes of interest with other living creatures, so are there any principles we can use to show how such conflicts ought to be resolved?

Wants and Needs

I have deliberately considered only those interests of animals which any reasonable person would agree constitute their most basic needs - the need to live free from pain and suffering. A 'need' implies necessity. Humans obviously have needs too, but they also have a vast number of 'wants'. 'Wants' do not imply necessity but desire. I need to eat, but I do not need to eat animal products. Some people want to wear leather, but they have no need to do so. The needs of humans are few, but their wants are almost infinite!



Stevenage A/R newsletter

Very often what is claimed as a need arises from a want. We need to be sure that a new shampoo will not harm a person, but the need only exists because someone wants a new shampoo - it is certainly not a necessity!

When we look at the main areas of conflicting interests between humans and animals it is absolutely clear that in almost every case the needs of animals are sacrificed to the wants of humans. So let us consider the circumstances that result in the death of several hundred million animals in this country alone each year:

Several thousand vegans are living proof that it is not necessary to consume animal products on order to live healthy lives, yet it is undeniable that millions of animals suffer and die to satisfy what is nothing more than a desire. And not only do non-vegans ignore the needs of animals, they participate in a grossly inefficient food production system which ignores the needs of humans in other parts of the world.

The needs of millions of other animals are forgotten in the desire for entertainment. Hunting, angling, performing animals - what incredible arrogance to deny animals their most basic needs in favour of such trivial pursuits!

The safety testing of new products before their use by humans is another example of how the interests of animals are disregarded so that humans can enjoy an ever-increasing range of new products. If these products are really wanted there exists a variety of alternative methods to test their safety. If these methods are more expensive the want for safety may have to conflict with the want for profit. At present the needs of animals are being sacrificed to profit.

Vivisection

The principle that I propose is that the wants of one individual ought never to take precedence over the needs of another, and in the examples above the case seems absolutely clear. It is for that reason I have left vivisection until last. Of all the major areas where human and animal interests conflict it is the one where it is at least possible that the needs of one may conflict with the needs of the other.

There will be those reading this who will deny even the possibility that the death of an animal in a medical laboratory could save, or ought to be used to save, a human life and I respect their view. I am simply not qualified to judge the truth of it. And if I admit the possibility, it would be wrong to evade the question as to how I would resolve the conflict.

It helps me to consider a hypothetical case. I can imagine being in a lifeboat with a child who is starving. I would attempt to kill fish to keep the child alive, and in doing so I would put the interests of the child above those of the fish. I would be choosing what I considered to be the lesser of two evils. It is only a small step to move this hypothetical case to the medical laboratory, but I am not promoting vivisection as a general principle any more than I would advocate the eating of fish. There can be no automatic formula to resolve conflicts of need.



Of course the pro-vivisectionists weaken their own case. They claim that all animal experiments are necessary - that they are performed for human need, when quite clearly the need, if it exists, often results from human wants. How many of the major killers are caused in the main by human actions? Isn't is possible that humans have contributed enormously to the need to fight cancer, heart disease and AIDS by their wanting cigarettes, poor diets and biological weapons? They claim that toxicity testing is necessary - I argued earlier that it actually results from a desire to save money. They claim that 'pure' research is necessary - that is, research done in the pursuit of knowledge in the hope that one day it may prove 'useful'. They wish to establish a need before one arises!

Pro-vivisectionists have a difficult task. They must first establish that the need for what they do outweighs the needs of the animals they use. Then they have to prove that, regardless of cost, there are no possible alternatives. And finally, if they wish to put the needs of one before another they must provide scientific and moral arguments to show why, in any conceivable case, an animal ought to be used rather than a human. I believe they have an impossible task!

A Position of Strength

Except for a plea for consistency, this article has been concerned with ideas and some may criticise it for that. But ideas are the foundation of our movement and unless action is based upon a sound ethical position it becomes gratuitous. We will only achieve our aim if we start from a position of strength. Strength comes from the conviction that our arguments are based not only upon hard facts, but also upon sound ethical principles which are reflected in our lifestyles. When our arguments are heard and found to be unshakeable then our actions too will be understood and supported.

WHY THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES ARE NOT FOR ME

by Susan Jay

When I joined the Animal Rights movement two years ago I decided not to join any of the national animal welfare or national animal rights societies as I had heard constant reports of differences, bickering, in-fighting and all sorts of other alarming things. Some may have been more accurate than others so I decided these societies etc. were not for me. I think it would be a good idea to video AGMs so that those who couldn't attend can see for themselves what is being said and done in their name. I was recently shown a copy of a video of the Vegan Society AGM. I saw in the last issue of Arkangel that Ronnie Lee mentioned he was saddened by yet another dispute - this time in the Vegan Society. There was also a report in Arkangel about trouble in the HSA. With some of these disputes you can't help wondering about some of the people's motives - it can't all just be sheer stupidity can it?

Wouldn't it be better if both sides in a dispute used Arkangel to put their case as little 'snippets' here and there don't really explain anything to ordinary members. After watching the Vegan Society AGM video I was none the wiser as to what was going on. A young man came in at the end of the meeting and someone flew across the hall waving their arms informing this man that people didn't want to hear what he had to say. How did he know that nobody in the hall was interested just because he wasn't? The young man may have had something important to say but it was obvious that the members weren't going to be allowed to hear it. They weren't going to be able to make up their own minds. I was later informed that the young man trying to speak was a long standing vegan who'd recently been expelled from the Vegan Society. It would appear to me as an outsider that the whole meeting was a mess and I think people would have done more good by sending the money spent on travelling etc. to good use at a local animal sanctuary. What I couldn't understand was at the end of the meeting someone could stand up and propose that the resolutions weren't even discussed. Even political parties etc. discuss resolutions at their annual meetings. Surely this will only store up more trouble for the future if people aren't allowed to make their views known. What exactly are people afraid of? Is it just purely 'power seeking'?

I'm so pleased that the people running Arkangel have had the guts to stick to allowing anyone to air their views. It doesn't matter if nobody else agrees with me or if everyone agrees with me - at least I've been allowed a fair hearing. If a lot of the articles published in Arkangel had been sent to the national animal welfare societies they may not have been printed for fear of controversy and people daring to differ. Arkangel can be one of the only ways forward.

I still stick to my original thoughts on the matter. Yes, I am a vegan, I am anti-hunting, I am anti-vivisection. I am anti all animal abuse but the national societies are not for me.



ANIMAL RIGHTS TUNNELVISION

by Paul Gravett

I was quite frankly appalled by a lot of what I read in Arkangel #4. To me it typified what I've come to know as animal rights tunnelvision, the inability of animal rights campaigners to understand the world outside their immediate sphere of interest.

The worst aspect of this is Arkangel's defence of giving a platform to fascists. Simon Russell's argument that this allows them to "damn themselves with their own pens" is simply facile because, as the letter from Patrick Harrington demonstrated, they are now extremely cautious about the way they word their statements. Harrington calls himself a "Nationalist" and says he does not believe one race is superior to another, but how many people read the Third Way's magazine and know they stand for repatriation. That means forcibly removing anyone who does not conform to their ideal of the mythical white Anglo Saxon race. What about racially mixed relationships and marriages? Of course Hitler and the Nazis originally believed in repatriation for the Jews until they found out that it was much cheaper to send them to concentration camps and gas chambers - and you can recycle the fat into the soap and make lampshades out of the skin.

I'm afraid if anyone's guilty of putting his boot in his mouth it's Simon Russell, especially when he compares Arkangel to Searchlight.

While I'm no real fan of the latter, it doesn't give platforms to fascists to espouse their despicable ideas, it exposes them. I know Simon that fascists won't go away by ignoring them, but no-one's saying Arkangel should be doing that: you should be exposing and fighting them.

In case anyone is saying "What has all this got to do with animal rights anyway?", I'll explain. Does anyone seriously believe that a tiny bunch of crackpot, flag-waving neo-Nazis will do anything to bring animal liberation closer. All they will do is cause untold damage to the movement because they will alienate from us precisely the sort of people we need on our side. Animal liberation will not occur unless society is radically transformed, so we should be appealing to the most deprived and dispossessed sections in it because they are the only ones who have an interest in bringing about real change. That means the poor, ethnic minorities who suffer from racism, gays who suffer from homophobia, etc. Now, I ask you, what would any black or gay person think of the animal rights movement if they read Arkangel #4 and saw articles by people from organisations that questioned their right to even exist?

It's time that some people in the animal rights movement realised what the world outside is really like. Life for many black and gay people in this country isn't much better than that of oppressed animals. The number of racial crimes has risen dramatically in recent years, and many black and asian people are now virtual prisoners in their homes, too afraid of going out in case they are attacked. In the last four years at least 15 gay men have been murdered because of their sexuality, victims of "queerbashers". None of their attackers have ever been caught since the police are too busy harassing gay men and lesbians for consenting and victimless behaviour. Poverty and homelessness have increased dramatically in recent years too. This unfortunately is the state of the society we live in.

Sometimes animal rights campaigners tend to forget that there is a great deal of human oppression in our society. If the movement never forges links with the truly oppressed - people who share a common cause with the animals - then how can we bring about animal liberation? I do not believe it will come through writing letters to MPs; parliament doesn't exist to represent the wishes of ordinary people but to protect the power and profits of the ruling class. It also won't happen because we all start using cruelty-free products, because that underestimates the flexibility of capitalism in adapting to new trends whilst remaining essentially exploitative (eg. the new vegetarian wonder food Quoirn, which is produced by a subsidiary of ICI and underwent animal testing for years).

There is a huge potential for building bridges with other oppressed sections of society. Recently my local group organised a meeting entitled "Animal Rights and Gay Politics" - one of the best attended we've held. The speaker was Peter Tatchell, a leading gay rights activist, who has written articles in the gay press condemning the use of animals in AIDS experiments. Another encouraging development is the recent formation of a group called the Black Environmental Network, which tries to combat the all-too prevalent racism in the green movement. Above all we have to understand that the working class has nothing to gain from the exploitation of animals, it is only those who control and profit from the vast animal abuse industries that we should be fighting.



The Vegan

Unfortunately one often finds an undercurrent of misanthropy in the movement; the idea that all people are evil and if only they could be done away with in some way everything would be all right. This is implicit in Ronnie Lee's opinion that the human population of this planet has to be reduced to 50 million (how?) or in the "Leave out the political comment" article by Paul in Arkangel #4. Anyone who like Paul believes that fascists should be welcome in the movement has to ask themselves one question: could I work alongside someone who I knew was attacking black or gay people? Could any compassionate person really do that?

Sylvia Noble's attack on ritual slaughter contains a fatal flaw which people like her often make - she assumes that "humane killing" is really humane. Anyone who has examined factory farming and the slaughtering of animals for even a short time will see that in fact "humane slaughter" is a myth designed to assuage the consciences of the vast British meat eating public. It has been estimated that about one third of the animals killed in the so-called "humane" way are not adequately pre-stunned at all. That adds up to 250-300 million animals per year. Ritual slaughter should be criticised, yes, but not on the basis of it being more cruel than "humane" methods (which don't work). It should be condemned because to kill animals to eat - however they are slaughtered - is wrong. Phrases that Sylvia Noble uses such as "powerful Jewish lobby", "powerful Muslim and Jewish lobbies and their vociferous supporters", and, above all, "I am proud that people of my own race cared sufficiently to introduce a method

of rendering animals unconscious before they are bled to death and am disgusted that British Governments give Jews and Muslims living in Britain the right to disregard the law and slaughter animals by stone-age customs" strongly suggest that she has racist motives.

Lastly a comment on Neil Theobald's anti-abortion article. It is all too easy for those in animal rights to use the "all life is sacred" view to argue that aborting foetuses is comparable to vivisection, etc. It is not, for two reasons: 1) animal rights should be based on the quality of life, not life for life's sake. It has always been ALF policy that if animals are too sick or suffering to be rescued, they should be humanely killed. Abortion is comparable to this, since it is intended to prevent the suffering of the mother (physical and mental) and that of a child who isn't wanted. Sometimes not living at all is preferable to a life of nothing but pain. 2) The difference between exploited animals and foetuses is that the former are independent beings, whereas the foetus is part of the woman carrying it. Since it is part of her body, she has every right in determining its fate. It's also worth remembering that men can just walk away from the situation; they don't have to face pregnancy and bringing up the child. Abortion has occurred at all times in all cultures, whether legal or not. Perhaps in some perfect vegan society of the future it will be unnecessary, since there will be complete sexual equality and perfect contraception. Until tnen, howver, let's not persecute women who have to take the excrutiatingly difficult choice of an abortion.

FAKE FUR

by John Harris

Some time ago I wrote a letter to Jonathon Porritt complaining about a fur hat he was seen wearing on his recent BBC TV series. I made the point that the wearing of fur is unacceptable to most people in this country and that there was some incompatability between his wearing such a hat and his continued membership of the only political party which seeks to espouse the cause of animal rights.

I have received the following reply from Mr Porritt:

"Dear Sir, in 20 years in the Green movement I've met some pompous prats, but you beat the lot. The hat to which you refer is made of synthetic fur. Or is that also a crime in your book?"

This is just the sort of well measured, polite and articulate response one does not expect from someone who has stood for the Green party in elections and sets himself up as a spokesman for the green movement. The anti-fur group Lynx argue that the wearing of fake fur is almost as offensive as the real thing since it still sends out the message that fur is something to which it is acceptable to aspire, and even if fake fur was acceptable how on earth does a viewer of a TV programme know whether or not it's fake?

There will have been thousands of people watching that programme whose knowledge of the green cause is limited and who wish to find out more. By wearing such a hat, real fur or not, Mr Porritt has done us a severe disservice.

GREENWAVE REPLY

by David Milner

(Greenwave Executive Council)

I would like to take the opportunity to reply to all the badly informed or poison minded characters who have written to you about GREENWAVE.

1) Greenwave is NOT a Fascist organisation. We support the ideas of Direct Democracy with delegates from Community Councils and Regional Councils carrying out the wishes of their electorate and de-selected at any time they fail in that duty - hardly the stuff of budding Mussolinis and Adolfs! Some of the people who write to your journal are Fascists and eminate from the same area of politics as Stalin, Pol Pot and Ceaucescau, these people are using the animal rights movement as a cover for their discredited politics.

2) Greenwave is NOT racist. Our organisation is open to people of all racial backgrounds and we challenge Robin Lane and the brave Anons to PROVE we have ever discriminated against anyone for any reason.

3) Greenwave was formed in 1988 some 18 months before the Official NF was finally wound up and so can hardly be the new name for the NF.

4) Greenwave was not replaced by Third Way. This is a separate (and political) organisation, some of whose members are supporters of Greenwave.

5) Greenwave has never held a meeting in Wigan. We are aware that some local branches of the neo-nazi Flag NF have used Greenwave as a cover name for booking rooms they would NOT get using their own name. Since to my knowledge we do not have any skinhead members, I can say that the Wigan meeting was nothing to do with Greenwave.

6) Greenwave supporters have never taken part in racial attacks and again we call upon our accusers to produce evidence. Race does not feature in the policies or activities of Greenwave and I wonder whether some of your correspondents aren't trying to create a myth of racism to discredit our organisation. It would be very interesting to see how Robin Lane and friends would describe these tactics if they were used against the animal liberation movement. In my opinion Robin Lane could teach Saddam Hussein and Baghdad Radio a thing or two, not to mention that early communist Joseph Goebbells - he of the big lie theory. Goebbells has been the mentor of the political Left more than the Right and the racist tag is now on the verge of becoming meaningless thanks to the likes of Robin Lane.

Finally can I appeal to your readers to maintain an open mind and be ever vigilant to the hangers-on from bankrupt Marxist grouplets who would destroy the animal liberation movement from within. Remember the records of these groups and that all they ever succeeded in doing was spending all night arguing who could or could not join - the animals need ACTION not words. Leave these ditherers in the gutter of history where they belong and carry on the good fight to rescue our animal friends. Greenwave will play whatever role we see as assisting the cause of animal rights and we will not wait for permission from the likes of Robin Lane.

COMMENT

The 'Comment' section of Arkangel is an open forum for uncensored discussion and the editor does not necessarily agree with the views expressed. As an increasing amount of articles are received it is impossible to include them all. However, those that haven't been included in this issue will be given priority for inclusion in the next. Articles which incite illegal activities cannot be included, articles which threaten illegal acts will not be included, articles which could possibly endanger the security of activists will not be included and articles which we seriously believe will get Arkangel sued for libel cannot be printed. Allegations that named individuals are drug company infiltrators, hunt infiltrators, nazi infiltrators, communist infiltrators, police infiltrators etc. etc. must be accompanied by proof and legal advice will be sought, possibly delaying the articles' inclusion.

Our last 'Comment' of this issue comes from 'Nabate' in Belgium. "My English doesn't allow me to send you a proper letter, but we were kinda shocked to read under the headtitle 'Road to Victory' that China's gvt has executed and sentenced to death two person for the crime of having sold protected PANDA. In no way we have sympathy for those sellers of animal but we wouldn't think it's a step forward the victory to sentence people to death. Otherwise your way of doing the magazine inspired us a lot. Congratulations".

ARKANGEL T-SHIRTS



Two T-shirts are available from Arkangel, a gold coloured T-shirt with the picture from the cover of this issue and a white 'Unite for the Animals' T-shirt. They are all XL size and are available for £6 each including p&p.

ROAD TO VICTORY

*Local authorities throughout England are being urged to adopt an environment led approach to development and planning and to make the greening of urban landscapes a top priority. The advice is contained in new guidelines issued by the Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council, the two main Government agencies responsible for protecting wildlife and the landscape (Times 30/11/90) * The Environment Secretary announced that Britain is to host a seminar in 1991 to discuss a global agreement to save the world's endangered species. The Government wants such an agreement to be ready for signing by 1992. It was also announced that British contributions to the budget of the United Nations Environment agency is to go up from £4 million to £7 million in 1991 (Times 21/11/90) * A leading peat producer is to sell one of the country's largest lowland peat bogs to the Nature Conservancy Council after a vigorous campaign against peat cutting by conservationists - Fennis, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses, on the Shropshire/Clwyd border, will become national nature reserves. The Managing Director of the peat firm said the sale was "the result of public pressure" (Daily Telegraph 1/11/90) * Polytechnic directors have launched a programme for the greening of their institutions, with a commitment to promote environmental awareness throughout the curriculum (Times 1/11/90) * Britain is to give £46 million to a new world bank fund, the Global Environment Facility, set up to help developing countries to tackle their environmental problems (Daily Telegraph 28/11/90) * High sales of free-range eggs in supermarkets are leading egg producers to reduce the number of battery hens - recent figures show the consumer is demanding more free-range eggs, which now account for nearly 20% of all egg sales (Western Morning News) * In its first reading of the 1991 draft budget, the European Parliament voted for 1m ECU (£720,000) to be set aside for the setting up of a European centre to develop alternatives to the use of animals for testing purposes. The centre will co-ordinate research in the Community and validate different testing methods (EP News) * A shop assistant working in Che's Great Gear Market in Kensington ordered a woman wearing a £4,500 full length mink coat to leave because*



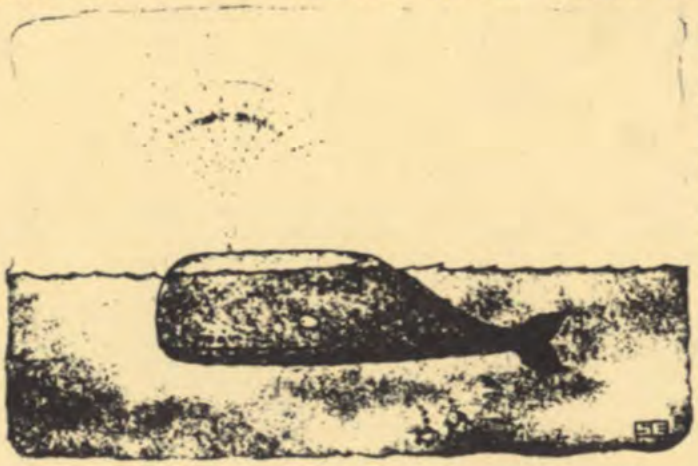
the shop is a fur-free zone (Today 13/11/90) * Hunting has been effectively banned on Kent County Council land. All digging of badger setts for foxes is now banned and anyone wishing to hunt must first get the council's written permission (Focus 21-22/11/90) * The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that pig stalls and tethers for breeding should be banned. From this year farmers will be prohibited from setting up new narrow breeding stalls for sows and from using neck and girth tethers. All existing stall and tether systems will have phased out by 1998 (Daily Telegraph 11/1/91) * Last November members of the National Trust voted for a ban on deer hunting on NT land. Proposals for similar bans on foxhunting and minkhunting were defeated by a much closer margin than in the previous vote 2 years before. In a Gallup poll in December commissioned by the LACS, 83% of people asked believed that the NT should enforce the deer hunt ban. The NT has delayed its decision on enforcement by 2 years, but if the ban is eventually enforced, the Quantock Staghounds will face extinction and the 2 other staghound packs in Devon and Somerset could be in difficulty (Daily Telegraph 12/12/90) * The numbers of badgers slaughtered by farmers is likely to fall because of a new technique which makes it possible to tell if a badger has TB within an hour of tests (Western Morning News 13/12/90) * Ancient hedgerows are to be protected by law for the first time under new government proposals - the measures are designed to halt grubbing up of the hedgerows, with councils being given the power to make conservation orders on important hedgerows and pay farmers to maintain them (Western Morning News 18/12/90) * All hunting of foxes, deer, mink and hares with hounds would be banned by the Labour Party under new proposals to be unveiled in 1991. Labour also intends to strengthen the law against badger baiting and control the use of terriers in the countryside. A document on the welfare of lab animals and domestic pets has been promised as well (Daily Telegraph 27/12/90) * Hare numbers were expected to rise in 1991, ending long decades of decline because farmers are using less intensive agricultural methods (Daily Telegraph 27/12/90) * Pupils at a school in Stoke-on-Trent have developed a sensor designed to raise the alarm at badger setts, which would cost £45 compared to £300 for those available at present (Daily Telegraph 27/12/90) * The Government has banned fishing for sand eels off Shetland to try and save sea birds which depend on them. The ban follows a 4 year campaign by the RSPB (Daily Telegraph 29/12/90) * Polluters of rivers and lakes now face higher penalties in magistrates courts with the Environmental Protection Act increasing the fines magistrates can impose on them from £2,000 to £20,000 (Times 1/1/91)



Postcard from The Animals Shop

The number of animals used in medical research may soon be cut as the result of work by researchers in Cambridge who have developed a way to make 'magic bullets' anti-bodies outside a living body by using phages (a type of virus)

(Daily Telegraph 4/1/91) * The adder is to be protected under new laws which will name it an offence to kill or injure it. The freshwater mussel and the Allis shad (a rare migratory fish) also benefit from amendments to the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. Protection for the basking shark is to be considered by the Nature Con-



Postcard from The Animals Shop

servancy Council in its review (Daily Telegraph 4/1/91) * New laws to prevent cruelty to animals in markets have been announced by the Government. A new offence of causing injury or unnecessary suffering will enter the statute book, giving horses and other livestock protection in places of sale for the first time. Other new laws order the introduction of minimum ages at which calves can be separated from their mothers and sold through markets and it will become illegal to sell calves more than twice in any 28 day period. Electric goads will be banned for use on calves, young pigs, sheep and horses (Daily Telegraph 16/1/91) * The last fur shop in Swansea, Glynn and Leinhardt, has closed down (Western Morning News 2/2/91) * The Birger Christensen fur shop in New Bond Street is closing down (Times 1/2/91) * Following the launch of a campaign by vegans to persuade companies to stop microbiologically testing their products (a test using meat and milk), Innoxa have changed their testing to a non-animal method * Animal protectionists persuaded Bromley Council in Kent to call off the cull of Canadian geese in a Bromley Park. The council had arranged for the geese to be killed by a local gamekeeper on 26th Jan this year because they were allegedly making too much mess in the park and attacking people. The animal protectionists are now negotiating with the council to get the geese moved to a sanctuary where they will be more welcome * Moorland Furs of Hebden Bridge, Halifax, which held 12,000 mink, is closing (Turning Point) * The 'Fresh from the Sewer' Teenage Mutant Turtle toiletries were not tested on animals (Turning Point) * The British Heavyweight champion armwrestler, Katherine Monbiot, is vegan (Turning Point) * World mink production fell from 42 million pelts in 1989 to an estimated 27.35 million in 1990 and the forecast for 1991 is down to 21 million (Financial Times 24/1/91) * New laws have been announced which set minimum standards for the storage of silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oils on farms. The National Rivers Authority welcomed the regulations as "another very helpful weapon in the battle against pollution" (Western Morning News 28/2/91) * The Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt is closing down after more than 2 centuries of hunting (Daily Telegraph 2/3/91) * The Ministry of Agriculture has launched a new campaign against illegal poisoning of wildlife. The campaign is designed to increase public awareness of different types of poisoning and to encourage people to report suspected poisoning incidents to local veterinary experts (Western Morning News 2/3/91)