BITE BACK

magazine

no. 10

ON THE INSIDE



NEWCHURCH FARM TO CLOSE PG10



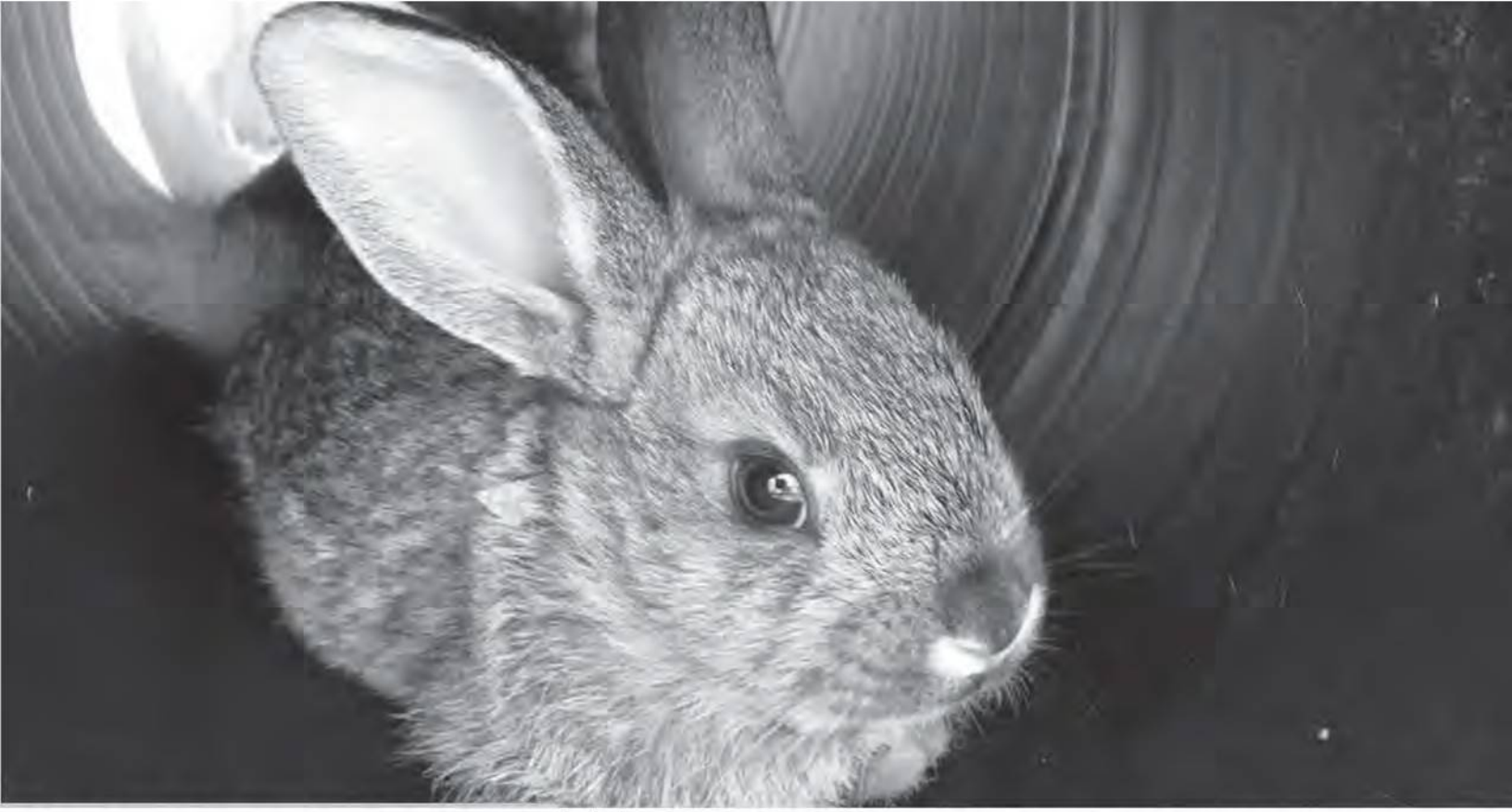
MARTIN BALLUCH PG14



PATTY MARK PG18



HOW IT WAS DONE WICKHAM LABS PG30



ON THE COVER

bunnies born from rabbits liberated from a breeder play in their home, and meet their mothers' liberators

BITE BACK magazine

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Bite Back is a volunteer organization and magazine dedicated to the advocacy of those caught or currently in the underground for animal liberation and the nonviolent tactics they employ. *Bite Back* strives to create a culture of support for the Animal Liberation Front and direct action by means of prisoner aid, news reporting, the publication of inspirational stories and photos, and the production of pro-ALF merchandise.

Formed in 2002 to feed an animal rights movement hungry for ALF advocacy, *Bite Back* is all volunteer, grassroots-organized, and free to political prisoners.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Bite Back is a 32 page quarterly. Subscriptions are $15/year ($10 low income/student) or $20 international (US funds are preferred, but we do accept euros and pounds). We accept checks or money orders (made payable to Bite Back), well concealed cash, or PayPal (credit card) payment online via our website.

If you are interested in distributing Bite Back at your store, distro, or infoshop, get in touch for bulk rates.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are $3 each. Please send a letter describing which issue you would like, the quantity and the necessary funds. NOTE: Unfortunately, we are SOLD OUT of issues 1 - 5.

SUBMISSIONS

Bite Back welcomes all submissions for articles. They may be sent via email or mail. Articles may have an author or be anonymous; please specify when sending an article. Pictures are also always welcome. If possible, please send hard copies to the address, as email attachments will not be opened for security reasons. Videos may also be submitted for review, distribution, or *Bite Back TV* featured on the website. Your ALF/direct action related merchandise may also appear in the magazine for sale. Contact *Bite Back* about wholesale rates.

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BACK COVER



grannies and guerillas - why not both?

editorial

There is certain hypocrisy deep in the argument made by those who preach for legislative change and decry direct action. The worry is that breaking the law (no matter how altruistic, non-violent, and effective the action) costs the animal advocacy movement its precious moral integrity and makes our political efforts (no matter how weak, watered down, and compromised these initiatives may be) untenable. The hypocrisy in this position is not just that history gives us voluminous examples of the vital role direct action plays, but that is also assumes that those in the upper echelons of government are individuals who should be held in high esteem and through the governing process hold a higher moral ground.

Consider this, though, of the 535 members of the United States Congress 29 have been charged with spousal abuse, 117 have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least two businesses, 3 have gone to jail for assault, 14 have been arrested on drug charges, 8 have been arrested for shoplifting, 21 are currently being sued for a wide variety of reasons, and 84 have been arrested for drunk driving just this year alone. None of this even mentions the money laundering indictment of Tom Delay (former House Majority Leader), the insider trading of Bill Frist (Senate Majority Leader), the guilty bribery plea by Rep. Randy Cunningham, and need Scooter Libby and Karl Rove even be mentioned? Where is this moral integrity that compassionate ALF activists cannot compete with?

If the Humane Society of the United States needed votes to curb bear-baiting (giving grizzlies jelly donuts as bait for lazy hunters) you can damn well guarantee it wouldn't matter to this behemoth organization if that politician lied, stole, or even beat their spouse. But share a podium with an animal rights speaker that dares defend illegally liberating beagles from labs and this inconsistent "non-profit" corporation cries foul.

Political expediency is the name of the game, and crimes of 'doublespeak' is not exclusively practiced by the holier-than-thou welfarist organizations. For as long as there has been a modern grassroots animal rights movement there has been a faction of direct action supporters and activists that cling to the Malcolm X mantra of "by any means necessary", unless, apparently, that means working within "the system." Animal liberationists have demonstrated they are more than willing to lower themselves into vivisection labs Mission-Impossible style, torch slaughterhouses, and even pioneer devastating methods of cyber sabotage - but yet they are largely unwilling to entertain the thought of ballot initiatives, negative campaigning, or policy promotion. The question is then, is legislative action not a means necessary for change?

In this issue of Bite Back we examine if and how direct action and political efforts can work with, against, and parallel to each other. In an in-depth interview with Austria's Martin Bulloch he describes how as a direct action, Barry Horne-supporting, radical activist he actually helped write animals into their national Constitution and sees welfarist legislation as a tool of economic sabotage. How do these "animal friendly" politicians really add up? Find out on page 22. And Patty Mark - the leading authority on the Open Rescue movement - offers new insight into the impact of open direct action and its political manifestations. Finally, what happens when the government promises a ban on cosmetic testing, but secretly one of the UK's most notorious labs is still killing away for Botox studies? You raid it of course! Find out how Keith Mann and his cell took Wickham labs by the throat.

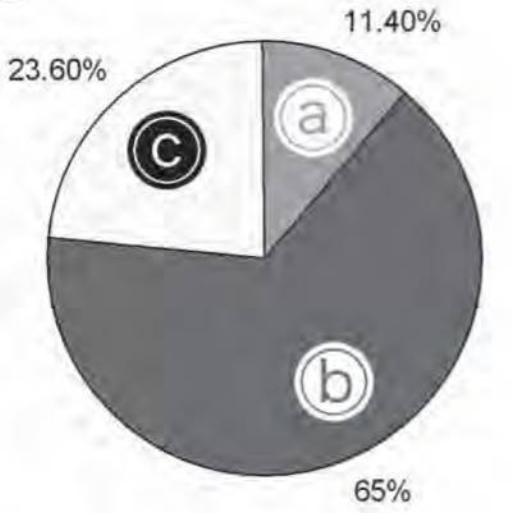
Along with the other regular Bite Back features, this issue opens the political divide and spills the guts on how we as an animal movement often filibuster each others actions, veto tactics, and in those rare – but brilliant circumstances – leave partisanship behind for true efforts towards progress.

Bite Back Magazine

BRICKS OR BALLOTS?

For a month we polled our website visitors on 3 questions regarding politics and direct action, and their relationships, or lack thereof. Here's what happened **at the polls**.

Have something to say about it? Write us at *letters@directaction.info* (keep it short and sweet and we'll publish it here next issue)



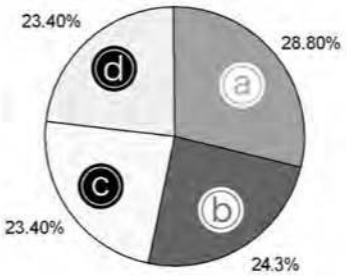
q How does direct action for animal liberation impact legislative efforts on animal welfare?

a It jeopardizes and damages such efforts by compromising the credibility of those seeking laws, not breaking them. **11.4%**

b It helps such efforts by shifting the middle ground and making enhanced welfare standards a more palatable demand. **65.0%**

c It does nothing. Animal liberation and animal welfare have little to nothing to do with each other. **23.6%**

q How likely are you to vote for a political canidate based on their 'humane score' as assessed by the Humane Society?



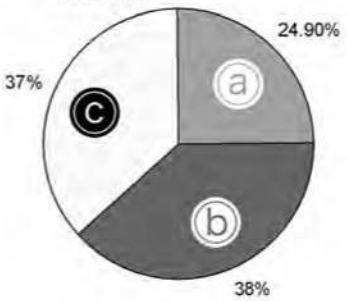
a I always vote for those few politicians that support animal welfare policies. **28.8%**

b I am not a single issue voter and consider their stand on animal issues along side many others. **24.3%**

c I do not consider the 'humane scorecard' a legitimate determinant as to where politicians actually stand on animal issues. **23.4%**

d I don't vote. **23.4%**

q How seriously should animal liberation activists treat the recent Senate hearings and possibly new draconian laws concerning the Animal Enterprise Protection Act and other crackdowns on radical activism?



a Ignore it, because who cares. The ALF and direct action activists are going to smash and liberate despite the laws and the consequences. **24.9%**

b Confront it openly. The animal liberation cause is no different than other fights for justice and activists should publicly and politically challenge the politicians & policy, through the system. **38.1%**

c Confront it as activists. If polititicans seek to undermine our efforts and support the opposition they should be treated and targetted no differently than those who actually abuse animals. **37.0%**

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celebrating 10 years as the publication of the grassroots animal rights movement.

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IT ALL ADDS UP

LEGAL DISPARITIES

7 YEARS

The possible prison sentence for a UK citizen simply stating "I support the ALF" under new anti-terrorism legislation proposed by Home Secretary Clark

15 YEARS

The prison sentence being served by a remorseless rapist in Ohio for beating and raping a 57 year old woman

22 YEARS

Sentence being currently served by Jeffrey 'Free' Luers for setting light to 3 SUVs. No one was injured

50,000

The number of fox-hunters expected to illegally break the UK ban on the blood-sport. It is widely reported police will not intervene

WINNER OF THE "THATS EXACTLY OUR POINT" AWARD

"**Let's get this straight**. It isn't about saving fluffy bunnies. What these people are proposing is a choice between **no new medicines** at all or **another thalidomide**. Take your pick."

- Richard Dixey

CEO of Phytopharm, a pharmaceutical company attacked by the ALF for contracting at HLS. Thalidomide killed and caused severe birth defects in people across the world despite its safe animal-testing.

Dixey is an idiot.

100,000 the number of deaths per year caused by animal-tested "safe" drugs.

50% percentage of the 1,035 drugs approved by the FDA between 1989 and 2000 offered no significant new benefits over older drugs.

FOOT IN MOUTH:

"I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN... IT WAS A *PLEASURE* TO RAID YOUR FARMS."

Peter Young convicted ALF activist, showing no remorse at his sentencing hearing.

"It gives me more reason to continue what I am doing"

- Tamara Matheson

an East Coast animal rights activist. responding to the physical attack she suffered by a deranged vivisector at HLS customer GlaxoSmithKline on a recent picket.

"WE APPLAUD THE FBI AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES FOR TRYING TO CRACK DOWN AND ROOT OUT THESE CRIMINALS"

Mike Markarian HSUS executive, encouraging state repression for the ALF.

"Let's keep this in perspective - I would still rather meet an animal rights campaigner in Oxford Street than a suicide bomber".

- A more reasonable vivisection industry representative responding to current vilification of the ALF.

>> prisoners

from behind THE BARS

THEY'RE IN THERE FOR THE ANIMALS. WE'RE OUT HERE FOR THEM.

For updates on animal liberation prisoners, and current prisoner addresses, please visit **www.DirectAction.info.**

Prisoner updates:

- UK prisoner **Keith Mann** was released from prison on tagging, for his part in the raid on Wickham Labs

-Belgian animal rights activist **Koen Van Keer** was released from prison in August.

-Swedish activist **Johan Jaatinen** was released from prison in October, after serving a ten month sentence for openly damaging hatching machines at a chicken breeder.

prisoners



Dave Blenkinsop #EM7899
HMP Rye Hill
Onley, Warwickshire
CV23 8AN
UNITED KINGDOM

Dave is serving a total of 10 years: 3 years for attacking the Managing Director of Huntingdon Life Sciences, 18 months for burglary in connection with the 'theft' of 600 guinea-pigs from Newchurch Farm and 5½ years for possession of incendiary devices.



Jan Lawrence NR7220
released!

Jan was sentenced to 8 months in prison for actions against Huntingdon Life Sciences. She was recently released on electronic tagging in January.



Heather Nicholson NR7271
HMP Bronzefield,
Woodthorpe Road,
Ashford,
Middlesex
TW15 3JZ
UNITED KINGDOM

Heather has been remanded into custody for allegedly "verbally insulting" a family of hunt scum.

In late September, four British animal rights activists were arrested and accused of blackmailing the Hall family, operators of the infamous Newchurch guinea pig farm (the family has announced the farm will close by the end of the year, following years of activist pressure). Three of the activists— John Smith, Jon Ablewhite, and Kerry Whitburn— have been remanded into custody.

John Smith #TB4887
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green Road
Birmingham B18 4AS
UNITED KINGDOM

Jon Ablewhite #TB4885
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green Road
Birmingham B18 4AS
UNITED KINGDOM

Kerry Whitburn #TB4886
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green Road
Birmingham B18 4AS
UNITED KINGDOM

PETER YOUNG



In transit to a federal prison

In September, Peter Young pled guilty to two charges of Animal Enterprise Terrorism, for raids on six Midwestern fur farms in 1998. He received a 2 year sentence. The six raids resulted in over 8000 mink and fox being released from their cages. Peter writes that, considering "the number of mink never recaptured, my sentence works out to approx. 12 hours served per mink."

Visit *www.SupportPeter.com* for more information about Peter Young.

October 8, 2005:
"I write this on the 8 year anniversary of where this all began...

On October 8th, 1997, myself and another left Seattle with bolt-cutters, a list of fur farms, and $150. We gave the next two weeks to the raiding of fur farms. "Moderation is the natural assassin of liberation." This axiom on our minds and the cries of mink as our call, we moved fast and struck often. The dust had not yet settled when one farmer gave Chicago media this testimony to our success: "It's been a rough two weeks."

On October 29th, our vehicle was observed passing a Wisconsin farm. Soon after, we were surrounded, and our vehicle confiscated pending the issuance of a search warrant.

Our campaign was over, but not before it had the following to its credit: Turbak Mink Ranch, Watertown, SD (2400 mink released). Circle K Ranch, Sioux City, IA (2000 mink, 100 fox). Fasset Fur Farm, Webster City, IA (1 mink, breeding records destroyed). Smieja Fur Farm, Independence, WI (800 mink released). Ott Fur

letters

Farm, Tomahawk, WI (350 mink released). Dittrich Minkery, Medford, WI (2500 mink released).

One year later, we were rewarded with a six count federal indictment.

The story of the next 7 years, my lawyer has advised, is "off limits." What is on record is this: I remained on the FBI "wanted" list. In 1999, my co-defendant Justin Samuel was arrested in Belgium and brought to the U.S. He quickly turned informant, offering the FBI tell-all testimony against me and bringing him a level of scorn from which I hope death will be his only escape.

On this case, it would be the only victory the FBI would claim for many years.

Fast forward to March 21st, 2005. Police, deeming my behavior "suspect," stopped to question me at a San Jose, CA Starbucks. A search of my bag turned up items described in the police report as "suggestive of a criminal lifestyle," including an alleged handcuff key and book titled "Evasion". The police, not to be bothered with details such as me actually breaking any laws, placed me under arrest. The warrants from 1998 surfaced after a fingerprint scan. The case had seen Grand Juries, search warrants, snitches, and the passing of many years. Now, a new one for the list: prison.

After 6 weeks in solitary, I was extradited to Wisconsin. An incredible outpouring of support allowed me to hire a skilled attorney. Prior to the review of evidence, I was told in the event of conviction across the board; I could expect 8 ½ to 10 years.

Immediately upon my capture, a second layer of the drama unfolded. The FBI - embarrassed at the revelation of a wanted figure living under their nose - began a nationwide hunt for those suspected of "aiding and abetting a fugitive," moving through my address book and questioning dozens if not hundreds of people. This conspiracy theory of an underground support network for wanted animal liberationists brought the prosecution early on to offer me a plea bargain of twelve months for full disclosure into the last 7 years - where I've been and who I've been with. This offer was not dignified with a response.

There remains many friends they'll never learn of, those I've known and stood by for years. To those people: You know who you are. And I promise you they never will.

Back in Wisconsin, their case against me rested on tool mark analysis of wire cutters seized from our vehicle, a list of mink farm addresses, and Justin Samuels's testimony. My lawyer focused his attention on the most serious charges: Disruption of Commerce by Threat of Violence.

Six fur farms raids is a lot of things, but it's not extortion. My lawyer brought a 2003 Supreme Court ruling on this point to the prosecution's attention, and their case collapsed. On July 22nd, all felonies against me were dismissed.

The plea agreement that followed will next month bring me two years in federal prison.

While the FBI will never succeed in diverting my energy from the butchers of the Earth, I will give them a few of my words. From questioning at least 3 singers of hardcore bands found in my collection to house raids on people I've never met, their investigation into me has been a case study in incompetence. One need look no further than the FBI memo detailing their look into a name in a book suspected of being a personal friend of mine - "Holden Caulfield." Their conclusion on the mystery man? They found him. He lives in Arizona. Under the weight of a possible lengthy sentence, there were times when the only people who could make me laugh were those trying to put me away.

To everyone who wrote, sent a book, visited, tore down my wanted posters years ago, or helped in any way: I can not overstate my gratitude. And to anyone who donated funds or organized a benefit - know this: the dismissal of my felonies was an achievement not likely to have come from a public defender. This was a direct result of contributions allowing me to hire a skilled attorney. In no abstract way, fundraising bought this victory.

As I prepare to settle in for my two-year sentence, many have asked what our obligation is to the imprisoned. I refer them to those who understand this obligation better than anyone. Ten days after my arrest, the A.L.F. released 58 foxes from an IL farm, claiming the release in solidarity with me. Prisoner support takes many forms. To some inside, it's letter or a visit. To me: liberated animals and smashed labs.

Now, in the solitude of jail, I reflect on the passing of years, and of those who once fought by my side before all this began. The period since is a timeline riddled with turncoats, carnivores, and the willfully uncaring. And at the end - only a few who remain unbowed. For the rest, it's the cries of billions forsaken for their careers, their bad bands, or a more fashionable struggle. Betrayal by those content with the most horrific suffering and death in which their inaction finds them complicit. My last words before prison are to those friends still standing, activists new to the fold, and every animal yet to be saved: You will never count me among the ones who turned away.

For Liberation,
Peter Young
Dane County Jail"

JOSH DEMMITT



Joshua Demmitt #12314-081
Federal Prison Camp Sheridan
P.O. Box 6000
Sheridan, OR 97378

Joshua is serving a 2 ½ year sentence for his involvement in actions at Utah's Brigham Young University, in which animals were freed from abuse and property damaged.

Josh is scheduled to be released in April 2006.

Visit www.SupportJosh.org for current news about Josh.

"To hear that Newchurch finally surrendered really made me happy. To know that those helpless animals will no longer be tortured in the name of ignorance makes my stay 100 times easier. We are winning this war! It's clear to anyone in the animal torture industry that we are a force to be reckoned with, and will not stop until these animals have the freedom that they deserve. Never before has our movement been so strong and willing to put themselves on the front lines.

Things here are ok. A few months to go."

letters cont...

MIKAEL



Mikael
c/o DBF SG
Box 919
114 79 Stockholm
SWEDEN

Mikael is serving 8 months for criminal damage after an attack on a chinchilla fur farmer's house in 2003. He is due for release in May 2006.

"About two and a half years ago I was arrested outside a chinchilla fur farmers house that I just seconds before had been part of smashing up. For this I was later convicted and sentenced to eight months in prison, which I now have begun to serve.

In 2001 there were 17 chinchilla fur farms here in Sweden, but in just over two years farm by farm closed down after liberations, economic sabotage, above ground protests and fear of being targeted by the ALF. It was at about this time that I and some others decided to make a home visit to one of the country's leading farmers. In the cover of darkness we sneaked up to his house and smashed all the windows, punctured his cars tires, threw paint in through the broken windows and finished of the job by also throwing in an activated fire extinguisher in his living room. The action was over in just under a minute and had gone exactly as planed until one of my fellow activists fell and got hurt during the escape. I helped him/her up and while I was doing so I saw a male figure running towards us. To make sure that everyone would be able to get to the car safely I decided to confront the attacker while the others continued towards our awaiting getaway car. Just as I had managed to face off the attacker and was on my way to the car I was overpowered by two men who held me until the cops showed up some thirty minutes later.

Our goal with the action was simple. We wanted to cause the farmer as much financial damage as possible to make his business less profitable and force him to quit abusing and murdering chinchillas just to sell their fur. By targeting the bastard at his house we wanted to make it clear to him that there would be no place where we would let him feel safe. He left no mercy for the animals and we would leave none to him.

Unfortunately I got caught, but sitting here in my cell, thinking about it, I feel no regret and I wouldn't wish any of it to be undone. Time in here is going by faster then I could imagine and I keep myself busy studying and getting as much exercise as possible in here. There's a small gym here and we are also allowed to play badminton and basketball. At ten o'clock they lock us up inside our ward, but they never lock the cells so I can still hang out with the other inmates and play poker or watch movies.

I have always been afraid of going to prison, but this place is nothing like I expected or feared. Swedish prisons are really nice and we are even aloud to wear our own clothes in here. I sometimes even forget that I'm here thanks to all the support I'm receiving from friends and activists from around the world. For this I am extremely thankful. Your e-mails and letters are read over and over again, I can promise you that.

On a final note I just want to say that I will always sup port actions carried out in defense of the animals. They have suffered enough and got no one else but us. Let's not keep them waiting!"

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DAVE AND FRIENDS ROUND UP 600 GUINEA PIGS

"When I left those stinking sheds in September 1999 I carried with me LIFE. I carried with me HOPE. I carried with me LIBERATION. I held in my hands what is symbolic of all our struggles: beautiful animals freed from a life of drudgery and pain. The horror of having to leave behind so many plagued me but holding those guinea pigs felt ecstatic beyond measure."

- **Dave Blenkinsop**
who received an 18-month prison sentence as a result of the raid

ALRIGHT NOW, WHO'S NEXT?

THE END OF NEWCHURCH GUINEA PIG FARM

(Newchurch, UK) On August 23rd, the infamous Newchurch guinea pig farm announced that it would stop breeding guinea pigs by the end of 2005.

The victory rightly terrified the vivisection industry, but inspired animal liberation activists worldwide. British newspapers outdid each other in predicting what would be activist's "next target?"

A spokesperson from Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs promised, "This victory is a dramatic blow to an industry which can and will be defeated by kind-hearted activists."

For several decades, the Hall family—most recently, Christopher and John Hall—ran a business in the village of Newchurch (Staffordshire, England) that bred and sold guinea pigs to be used in vivisection. Customers included Huntingdon Life Sciences and other laboratories and universities around the world. In several windowless sheds, tens of thousands of guinea pigs were imprisoned. Video footage taken inside the sheds by activists showed filthy pens and sick animals.

The campaign to close to farm kicked-off with an A.L.F. raid in 1999 during which 600 guinea pigs were rescued.

The six-year campaign to close the farm was led by Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs, who organized weekly demonstrations outside the farm, as well as national demos that brought hundreds of activists to town.

During the campaign, numerous farm employees quit and many companies refused to do business with the Halls; the brothers were even discouraged from visiting the local pub after activists caused a ruckus. Then there was the dug-up golf course, downed electricity lines, and broken windows (not to mention petrol bombs and an oddly misplaced body).

The closure of Newchurch is a wonderful victory, and serves as another reminder of what we can accomplish. Newchurch farm was not the first British company to close (remember Hillgrove cat farm? Shamrock monkey farm?), and it likely won't be the last.

Bastards to the very end, the Halls are selling the remaining guinea pigs, squeezing a few last dirty pennies from their dismal business. Protests will continue until the end of the year, when the barns will finally be empty.

"Protests will continue until the barns are finally empty, because only then we can be sure that no more animals are being bred for medical research."

-Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs

PHRASE OF THE MONTH

"Beast Brigade" / bēst bri-'gâd / Used by animal abusers and the media in referring to animal rights protestors; intended to be derogatory, but we happen to like it!
See also: "*Vegan Thugs*"

Q&A

we ask. they answer.

What do you think should be the role of politics in the struggle for animal liberation?

On the one hand, political efforts have led to significant victories for animals in some countries. But direct action campaigns have also had wonderful results. The recent announcement that the Newchurch guinea pig farm will close is the most recent example of a success that would not have happened if activists had limited their efforts to working within the system.



sarah gisborne

Sarah Gisborne #LT5393
HMP Cookham Wood
Rochester, Kent
ME1 3LU
UNITED KINGDOM

In October, Sarah's sentence was reduced by 1 year on appeal. She now has a still-outrageous five and a half years for damaging vehicles of people associated with Huntingdon Life Sciences.

October 5, 2005:
"I was laying on my bed thinking about an article I had read earlier in the day. It was regarding a gorilla that had been photographed in the Congo – She was wading through water with a stick in her hand – like a human would use to feel their way and steady themselves. This seems to be a shock to so-called Zoologists and Scientists. "How like humans they are," it said. It asked the question, "If these animals are so like ourselves, maybe they should be awarded rights?" So, as I lay on my bed last night, I thought about this and thought of the question of politics and animals. Why the hell do we think every other species needs to be like us before we show it some respect? What is so great about us that they do not already possess? Oh yea, the ability to destroy each other and the planet! How dare they not share such unique qualities! They already share the good qualities we can show too, you don't need to be an academic to know that.

We are an ignorant and arrogant species, but for those of us who see this we push for change the only way that history has shown to us. By fighting all sides. That in my opinion is through the mainstream and also the underground. We need both – one gives a voice to the other.

My sentence is a political sentence, though I have never thought my actions as political. I saw my file here today – 'Violent & Escape Risk'! That is how they classify me and us as a whole. If I had chosen a career poisoning and torturing apes and other species I would be praised for my violence.

Yes, the gorilla with the stick, how lucky she is to be so like us!!!"



chris mcintosh

Christopher McIntosh #30512-013
FDC SeaTac
P.O. Box 13900
Seattle, WA 98198

In September, Chris McIntosh entered into a plea agreement stemming from charges relating to a fire at a Seattle McDonald's in 2003. The action was jointly claimed by the E.L.F. & A.L.F. Chris agreed to plead guilty to one count of federal arson and was sentenced to eight years in December.

Although this is an outrageous sentence for a fire that caused $5,000 in damages, Chris felt that he had no other option. Chris could have faced a 30-year mandatory minimum sentence under federal sentencing guidelines.

The Chris McIntosh Support Fund has set up a website (*www.SupportChris.org*) with more information about his case, and how you can support him.

September 28, 2005:
"The issue of politics in any theater of liberation is a choice between self-empowerment and hamstringing yourself through a weak reliance on the system's table scraps. I say fuck the system.

In the fight for liberation from domestication, in our own lives as well as wherever we encounter it— in farms and vivisection labs—wherever we find that this system has usurped the natural web of life, we see first hand the senseless depravities of this civilization. Now I ask you what sense does it make, after having seen the system for what it is, to then go before it on your knees asking, begging the power structure to make weak concessions. It's time to put peace, love and non-violence to the side and dismantle and eliminate those that have built this power structure and that have made this evil profitable as well as possible. After you recognize what the civilization has done in this area look at what it has done in other areas of our lives.

You can't liberate nonhuman animals if we haven't first destroyed the encroaching cancer of consumption. It's not liberation if the animals are put into just another cage.

So basically what I'm saying is the only way for animals to be free is to seriously consider the concepts of the anarchist critique and anti-politics, but don't stop there. Put down your law books, signs and slogans and use your strength to attack every aspect of what has enslaved us all: civilization, and spurn all that empowers the enemy. Quit validating their institutions."

Write to more political prisoners:
www.SpiritOfFreedom.org.uk



THE BEAGLES WIN!

(Zagreb, Croatia) At the end of August, a reunion was held in a park in Zagreb, Croatia for a lucky group of vivisection survivors. The event marked one month since the release of beagles from the University of Zagreb. In late June, Animal Friends Croatia learned that 32 beagles had been delivered to the University for experiments in which the dog's bones would be broken. Activists were determined not to let that happen and began a non-stop protest outside the school. After weeks of extraordinary media attention and public pressure, the experiments were canceled and the dogs turned over to activists and new, caring homes. Activists hope the victory will lead to a larger campaign against vivisection in the country.



DID THAT MAN JUST CALL ME A "HIPPIE"?

(Huntingdon, UK) On the morning of September 7, a giddy Brian Cass, Huntingdon Life Science's chief executive, stood on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange waiting for shares in his company to begin trading on the world's most prestigious exchange. 15 minutes before trading was to begin, someone from the exchange tapped him on the shoulder, "uh, Mr. Cass, can I speak to you for a moment?" The NYSE had decided to "postpone" the listing (a wise decision, we think). Mr. Cass flew home to the U.K., the cork still in his bottle of champagne, but not before he blamed the postponement on pressure from "a load of English hippies." Huntingdon's chief financial officer, Richard Michaelson, tried to remain optimistic, "We're going to sit here hoping...." We hear he's still at the exchange waiting!

GRAB A HEN, THE DEMO'S CANCELLED!

(New Zealand) During a demonstration at a New Zealand egg farm in early September, activists discovered a shed door was open. Conditions inside the building, not surprisingly, were horrible. The protest was cut short and five hens were removed and placed in safe homes. So far in 2005, well over 100 chickens have been rescued from factory farms in New Zealand.



the SIDEBAR



OPERATION GREYSTOKE

(France) In the early hours of April 1, 1985, a group of activists liberated 17 baboons from the French National Center for Scientific Research, outside Paris. The animals were brought to a sanctuary and implants removed from their skulls. The activists, calling themselves "Greystoke," released a statement and video to French media. One year after the liberation, police were tipped-off to seven members of the group. Today, 20 years later, the activists have been threatened with prison because of their continued refusal to pay fines related to the action. A petition drive has been launched to gain amnesty for the seven. 15 surviving baboons continue to live free from the threat of vivisection. See photos and original video from the action: *www.international-campaigns.org*

HOMELAND SECURITY RUINS BARBECUE

(New Jersey, USA) New Jersey's counter-terrorism bureau ruined a perfectly good summer day in July when it sent officers, armed with assault rifles and wearing helmets and bulletproof vests, to stop "suspicious behavior" at the home of an animal rights activist. Officers arrived to find several men at the house loading a car with items such as a grill and a jug of apple cider. Not to be discouraged, police held the men for four hours until a search warrant arrived, and then ransacked the home.

NOVELTY OF OPEN RESCUES WEARS OFF FOR FARMERS

(New York, USA) After a few years of attempting to ignore the rescue of birds from intensive confinement "farms," or claiming that activists weren't at *their* farm, or that the action didn't happen at all, the animal industry has turned to law enforcement to crimp the spread of open rescues/investigations in the U.S. In October, three activists with the group Compassionate Consumers were indicted on burglary and other charges after going public with the results of an investigation of Wegmans Egg Farm, the largest in New York state. Nine injured hens were rescued from the facility. The charges mirror those faced by another group of activists in New York resulting from an open rescue of ducks at Hudson Valley Foie Gras in 2004. Although those charges were eventually dropped, it marked the first time in recent memory that activists faced years in prison for openly liberating animals. Learn more about the investigation at Wegmans at *CompassionateConsumers.org*

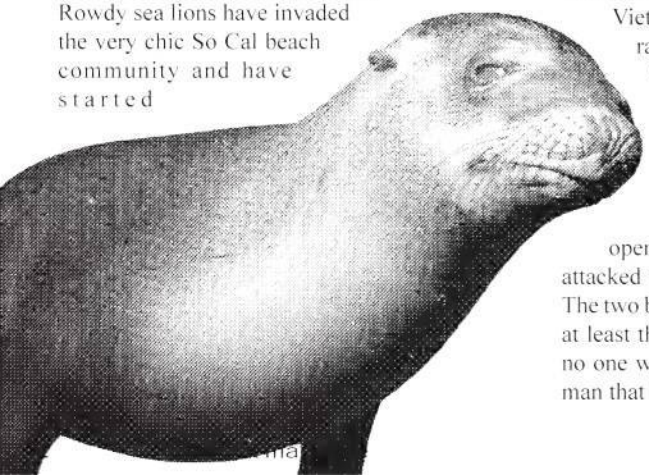
WHEN ANIMALS BITE BACK



So often our animal rights rhetoric proclaims that we must be the voice for the voiceless. While exploited animals certainly need our intervention and action – they are not always powerless. Our favorite form of "violence" comes through from their own teeth, paws, flippers, and girth. To all those tactical fence-sitters – try and condemn this!

The OC

Newport Beach – home to TV characters Ryan and Marissa – has a new community of visitors, the size of giant sumo wresters. Rowdy sea lions have invaded the very chic So Cal beach community and have started sinking boats, thrashing docks, and harassing the locals with their non-stop barking.



Cities up and down the West Coast have begun complaining about the mischievous mammals. In one incident 37 seal lions climbed aboard a docked sailboat and rocked it until it sunk. Other groups have trapped people on board ships, attacked city workers, yanked people off docks, and have wrecked the picturesque manicured opulence with their streams of vomit and feces. Frustrated people from Seattle to Balboa have tried to trick the animals with fake whales, shot them with rubber bullets, and let off fireworks all to no avail. The sea lion has had its way and clearly knows it is protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and can NOT be hunted or harassed. Ah, poor Kip and Buffy – what will they do!

A Wiener Dog

The Senior Journal told a funny story on October 5th of an elderly Romanian man that got his just desserts. Irritated by a rooster that just wouldn't stop clucking in the middle of the night, the Journal reports the old man raced outside to kill the bird with an axe, but ended up chopping off the wrong cock. Mistaking his penis for the rooster's neck he severed his manhood and fell to the ground bleeding.

Before the man could get to his feet – his dog (clearly unhappy with his human's violence towards animals) rushed outside and ate the penis. The man (I guess if you can call him that now) survived, as did the chicken and satisfied pooch.

A Bile Ending

News.com reported a story on October 8th out of Vietnam of soldiers being called to a restaurant to investigate an animal attack. When they arrived they found a 75 year-old man mauled to death and his nephew critically injured. For years they had kept two bears in a small cage to illegally extract their bile. Reportedly when the elder Tran Hoang Loc went to open the cage door and feed the bears – they attacked him swiping and mauling his stomach. The two bears were unjustly killed afterwards, but at least their bile-producing days were over, and no one was all that "gutted" over the loss of the man that kept them captive.



Animals BITE BACK hunting edition

With a bunch of Elmer Fudds taking to the woods this time of year – you can bet that across the country these idiots will eventually deviate their aim away from the deer, bears, pheasants, and to our delight find each other in the cross-hares.

Good for the Goose, Good for the Gander

Another Pennsylvania man gets it in the head. According to the Pennsylvania Evening Sun, 38 year old Troy Goodling was out on a family hunting trip. Their victims were intended to be geese. The newspaper reported that on Geese shoots the hunters typically wear camouflage and lay in fields calling out to birds. When a flock flies over, they quickly stand and blast away. On this occasion Troy stood to shoot, but accidentally popped up in the line of fire of a hunter behind him. The newspaper reported this was the first "water-foul" related hunting accident of the year. 2004 saw four hunting related deaths in this same county.

Blunder Down Under

On September 19th, the Australian newspaper Bendigo News, 17 year-old Jacob East was fatally wounded in a hunting accident. Apparently he and his mates where out in the middle of the night spotlight shooting kangaroos when his friend discharged his rifle right into Jacob.

His parents, upset by their loss, explained that Jacob had been spotlight shooting now for only 6 months. Jacob was a called a "great sportsman" by the article, as apparently it takes a lot of skill to sit by your truck and stun unsuspecting kangaroos into a state of paralysis with your headlights while you shoot them from a fairly close range. While 'sad' for these humans, a 'ga-day' for the kangaroos.

Dog-Gone it

Ananova reports on a September 2005 hunting incident (we are not calling it an accident) that took place in Bulgaria. 35 year-old Vasil Plovdiv was out quail hunting with 'his' dog, a German Point, when the two had an altercation. Vasil shot a quail and had 'his' dog run off to retrieve the body. The dog, having something else in mind refused to drop the dead bird at the hunter's feet and put up a struggle. Intelligently, the hunter used the butt of his gun to try and dislodge the corpse of the small bird from the dog's mouth when this frisky Fido seized the opportunity and sprung at him, hitting the trigger, peppering the hunter's chest with the shot.



LETS TALK POLITICS

welfare or liberation?
representatives or radicals?
catch up with some grassroots
activists who dare defy the nationals –
they do both.

When he wasn't sabbing hunts with Barry Horne,
running from Consort Kennels with a liberated beagle,
or playing his part in over 50 open raids on battery hen farms

MARTIN BALLUCH

was successfully forcing the ban on fur farms.
and battery hen farms.
and putting animal protection in the Austrian constitution.



y'know. this guy.

BITE BACK: Often direct action activists view the political process with disdain and as distinct and separate from the radical campaigns they run and many within the legislative effort for animal protection feel the same of controversial and cutting edge campaigns. The Austrian animal rights movement has demonstrated that direct action and policy creation need not necessarily work against each other and can indeed compliment each other's respective methods. Your Austrian organization, the Association Against Animal Factories, saw the marriage of these two factions and has achieved remarkable success as a result. What influenced your organization's decision to enter into the political foray? What gave you hope in coupling the two tracks of activism that so many others involved with direct action or legislative change have not seen or shared?

MARTIN BALLUCH: In my own activism, I have spent much more than a decade before having anything to do with politicians and legislation. My first experience with such politics was the fur farm ban we achieved in Austria in 1998. When all but one fur farm had gone by different means of activism, it was astonishingly easy to get a ban. I realized that politicians are happy to ban animal abuse, if there is not much economic pressure against it. But that experience is nothing new: it's the animal abuse industry and its economic power and undemocratic influence that are by far the most important single obstacle for animal liberation.

So, I suggest a new approach. View laws not as steps to improve animal welfare and reduce animal suffering, while their usage is not being questioned, but view laws as attacks against the animal industry. A new animal law, never mind whether its welfarist or rightist, is a good thing if it costs the industry, and no good thing if it does not. Any law that makes it more expensive and difficult for the farmed animal industry, the vivisection industry, the hunting industry, the animal entertainment industry and so forth, is a good thing, much like economic sabotage. In essence, it is economic sabotage. If a capitalist enterprise does its sums and finds that not abusing animals is less expensive, they will stop doing it.

And, secondly, we found that the classic grassroots campaigns against animal industries can equally be used to pressure regional or national governments to make new laws. There

is just one very important ingredient: your campaign has to be seen by the public to be just and understandable. The pressure you can build up against politicians is public pressure, less psychological. The moment the politicians can portray you as terrorists and are believed, they have won this battle, no matter what. But that, also, is an important ingredient for campaigns generally, even if to a lesser degree. The more you can be portrayed as an undemocratic terrorist threat, the easier they have it to come down on you like a ton of bricks and lock you up for good, with or without the corresponding laws.

BB: Do you think lasting social change can be achieved with the exclusion of radical action and pursuing only policy? Do you think radical/liberationist campaigns can create permanent social change without lobbying for new laws protecting their gains?

MB: I think people are neither bad, so that they have to be forced by law, nor good, so that they stick to high moral principles to their own disadvantage, but people are adaptive and go with the flow, choose the easiest and most comfortable way of living on a long term. Hence, the system how a society is run, the social support, health care, wealth distribution, but also the availability of products, defines how people behave. Lasting social change means changing the system how society is organized.

Some people believe such a change could come about by slowly turning ever more people vegan, until eventually everyone is, or until the animal industries feel the boycott and change. History shows, I believe, that this will never work. Not because people are inherently bad, but because most people have neither enough time nor enough energy to invest into swimming against the flow, i.e. against the system in society, long enough for a boycott to bite.

My suggestion hence is this. We need to change industry to provide easily available ample and cheap vegan alternatives to everything and at the same time make it ever harder for animal industries to produce cheaply, so that eventually the animal industries are pushed off the cliff and disappear. For that we need to damage those industries and hurt them in their pockets by any means. That can be economic sabotage as much as direct campaigning or achieving animal laws. The latter are very effective, because they cause lasting damage. Direct economic sabotage on the other hand can never occur on a very large scale lest society reacts with violence and ever worse police state methods. We will never be strong enough to counter that. Hence direct economic sabotage actions can only be stings, but put into the right place at the right time they can still be very effective.

I believe radical actions on the fringe of legality and beyond are very important tools for any campaign, for law changes as much as industry changes. They are vital so that your opponents know you mean business. To meet and talk only, with politicians or industry representatives, is in my experience never ever enough. Secondly, I cannot believe that it will be possible to exert enough pressure on animal industries to get rid of them, without the use of animal laws.

BB: One of the most remarkable achievements for animal rights in the new millennium has been that a first world western nation, Austria, has included animal protection into its constitution. In 2004, along side human rights, the new constitution in your country reads, "The state protects the life and wellbeing of animals in its responsibility for them as fellows of mankind." Can you explain more definitely what this means for animal rights in Austria?

MB: It is true that on 27th May 2004 the whole Austrian Parliament unanimously voted for the change in the constitution you quoted. I consider constitutional changes very vital, because the constitution, after all, is the very basis of society, the minimal consensus everybody agrees on. Every politician, every law and every act of law enforcement must conform to the constitution.

However, practically speaking, there was something else more effective in practice being established with the same vote on 27th May 2004: the animal solicitors. Every province in Austria has now an animal solicitor appointed, funded by government, who can intervene on behalf of animals in all cases concerning the animal law. The animal solicitors, who have been active since 1st January 2005, can intervene, bring animal abusers to court and appeal bad decisions and make sure abusers are prosecuted. The animal solicitors even did press releases and press conferences against animal abuse already and so far we have a good working relationship with most of them. If somebody breaks into a factory farm and films illegal conditions, we hand the evidence to the animal solicitors and they prosecute! Animal solicitors are a big step towards animal rights, since their installment essentially means that for the first time the interests of all animals (be they great apes or lobsters) are being officially recognized and represented before courts and at the political level.

BB: It took roughly 8 years of political campaigning and grassroots activism to achieve this incredible precedent. Can you describe what went into the campaign both on the aboveground and underground level?

MB: Yes, it was an unbelievably successful campaign since, at the beginning, not one single of the 4 parties in Parliament, including the Green Party, was in favor of the new law and the constitutional change. At the beginning, none of the political parties had an animal spokesperson and animal rights demands were usually ignored.

We started the campaign in 1996 with a so-called people's initiative, i.e. in Austria if enough people officially sign a demand it can be put before the general population, who has one specific week to go to their magistrate and sign officially. 11% of the population signed, as did 6% of MPs. At the general election 2002, we intensified the campaign by occupying the HQ of the Conservative Party for 13 hours! As a consequence, the Conservatives in government agreed in principle to debate a new law, without agreeing to any demands in advance. They thought they could keep the lid on the topic this way, without looking responsible if there is no progress.

We then started an ever more intensive classic grass roots campaign, with permanent demos, occupations, blockades, media work, fly posting and disrupting Conservative election rallies. Especially the latter proved very successful, as the Conservatives reacted irate and attacked us physically. During our campaign there were 3 elections which the Conservatives all lost, sometimes dramatically. It was this, the election losses together with relentless pressure at their rallies and media news against them, which persuaded them to agree to our demands. The opposition, who supported our campaign, was not able to disagree with our demands after the government had given in, so suddenly the road was clear and almost all our demands were met.

BB: Thanks to 50 open rescues you and your organization undertook with press attention in a two week period in 2003, battery cages were banned in Austria in 2004. This campaign saw a dramatic court room battle over your role in liberating simply 7 hens in one of the raids and a rather sensational act of civil disobedience in a governor's office. Can you tell the story of this campaign, your charges, and the elements that made the ban a reality, and what this means for Austrian egg production?

MB: Battery farming of laying hens has been a very long term issue in Austria. As everywhere, almost all hens were in cages only 20 years ago. Due to pictures and films of their suffering, it slowly became common opinion that battery farming is the worst animal abuse there is, even in school that was taught as part of the curriculum.

Three groups of activists broke into, altogether, 48 battery farms, keeping 40% of all laying hens in Austria, and publicized the conditions there, including that all laws and regulations were broken and that there was no governmental control scheme. We did a number of open rescues with lots of media attention. In addition, we occupied the Governor's office by chaining ourselves to his furniture and putting dead battery chickens onto his desk.

This campaign shook up the battery industry badly. Obviously, we had countless trials, at least 25 against the battery farmers with us as witnesses, but also as much against us for trespass and theft. Most of the battery farmers were convicted, we got some convictions too, but the Highest Court ruled that my liberating the hens was not illegal, as I acted in accordance with the public's wishes! A very remarkable result.

After many demos and actions, battery farm occupations and more open rescues, surprising the Conservative party leaders in Parliament with battery cages and a TV team in attendance, and after the Conservatives started to loose all elections, we won. Battery farms will be illegal in Austria from 1st January 2009 onwards.

BB: You are currently Sabbing the now illegal 'bird trapping', a 400 year old tradition in Austria, and this means taking considerable risks physically. In your reports from the field you talk about spying on the trappers, avoiding possible ambushes by them, and voicing a general concern over physical altercations and assault. How real is the threat

of violence by the opposition, and what is your policy on responding to it?

MB: The more seriously we have an impact on animal industries, the more vicious they will fight us. If we manage to get the public and the law on our side, then they will resort to violence. That has often been the case. I had a number of death threats, I had my windows smashed at home, and I do use some precautions to avoid ambush from animal abusers generally in my life. That's the price you pay for such successes and if you are in the lime light of it all. During a public debate on bird trapping, a trapper pulled a knife on us. After a trial against a battery farmer that I won, the farmer told me in leaving that he has bought a gun to shoot me. I do believe he did buy that gun and would use it.

Some of our activity involves breaking in and filming evidence or directly sabbing and stopping animal abuse. Being confronted during such activity, obviously, is psychologically the most dangerous situation, because the abusers feel they are being "attacked" and in their "rights" and must defend themselves. We had a number of injuries already, I have been punched in the face quite a number of times, we had broken noses, one of us was shot in the thigh and another had a badly damaged vertebra after an assault. But the moment we stop our activity out of fear, we have lost the cause. Freedom means no fear, of nobody. And we are prepared to fight for that.

BB: The SHAC campaign has been criticized that closing HLS will just send the animals and testing to countries with laws not as strong or as well enforced (which is a joke if you know anything about US animal welfare laws and regulations). It seems your circus effort success has experienced a similar problem as at least one of the Austrian circuses sold off its animals to a German one which is not as protective of how its animals are treated. How do you respond to this concern?

MB: Sure, animal rights is a global problem demanding global solutions. But those, too, will have to be realized step by step. There won't ever be a global big sweep towards animal rights in one moment. The bans in Austria make precedents for other countries, as they did already for example with the fur farm ban in England. And EU-bans will be precedents for elsewhere as well. The idea of animal rights and animal protection will spread over the whole globe sooner or later; we are only in an interim period.

BB: The conservative party has been the main obstacle for your organization's political advancements, why is this?

MB: The Conservative Party historically represents the farmers in Austria, who are responsible for the biggest number of animal abuses. Also, the city with its stronger leaning to left-wing socialist politics is far more open to animal rights than is the countryside, which mostly votes conservative. The usage of animals and the view of nonhuman animals as things are traditions. When conservatives keep traditions, they keep the status quo of animals being for the use of humanity. The Conservative Party hence is the natural enemy of the animal rights movement.



I would like us to learn from Barry's death how much we need each other, how much we depend upon each other in this movement, to be successful and to achieve real progress.

BB: Do you believe in single-issue politics? If a politician is pro-animal but against other social policies that help the environment or traditionally oppressed people (ethnic minorities, women, gays and lesbians, etc) should we still lend them our support because the plight of animals is vastly more endemic and tragic, or oppose them because of the commonality and interconnectedness of oppression?

MB: Every social justice movement needs "mad" people, who are so much involved that they give up anything and everything for the cause. It's this handful of mad people that gets the others going and makes the movement move. So, I do believe, for a successful campaign, at least some key activists should stay focused on the one issue at hand and not divert their attention elsewhere at all.

When it comes to cooperation with other movements or politicians, you must be very careful. If you are after a very specific goal, like destroying HLS or getting a ban on battery farming, then I say do as wide a coalition on this specific issue as you can. Try to get everybody into the boat for this specific demand and push it through. After that you part again.

If you do general campaigning for a change in awareness, trying to persuade people to change and become vegan and adapt their lifestyle etc., then I say do not do any associations with other causes or people of different persuasion. Because anybody else on board with any political persuasion, be it communist or right wing, religious or atheist, will distract from your message and turn somebody away. Show that the animal rights message is of wider importance and has many parallels and deep connections to other oppressions, by any means, but don't imply that for becoming animal rights or vegan, you have to be left-wing or anarchist or anti-catholic or whatever. I don't think you have to take the Catholic's faith away before you can turn them vegan, they surely can become faithful vegans and good activists within their belief system, even if the catholic church has a bad record of animal abuse, human and non-human.

BB: A lot of your success with radical action and progressive policy implementation has come from courting a sympathetic press. How important is the press to the Austrian animal rights movement? Could you have achieved as much if the media was far more antagonistic than supportive? Do you fear that as you become more successful and the government and major corporations are more threatened as a result that the media trend will change against you? How would you deal with this?

MB: The media played and still plays a very important role for the movement. To start with, I think, any media coverage is better than none (with exceptions, obviously), even if it is not sympathetic. The worst fate a social justice movement can suffer is being ignored.

Take the trapping sabbing campaign. Local media always report negatively about us, portraying us as a mob and as terrorists. The alternative would be they ignore us and the trappers trap as they

always did, don't realize how active we are and there is no conflict. With this negative reporting, there is conflict, in the minds of people there is a debate, their trapping is being questioned. Better conflict than they keep trapping like business as usual.

BB: While earning your PhD at Cambridge University, you spent some time in England where you also cut your teeth on radical animal rights activism. What did you learn from their strategies, demonstrations, and movement politics that you've applied to your efforts in Austria?

MB: The movement in England is mostly run by the working class and is very activism based, with rather little concern for media and how the activity is portrayed publicly. There is a very strong general distrust of authority and a strong opposition to national animal welfare organizations.

In Austria, the movement is not and has never been working class based. It is rather the middle class that does the campaigning. The idea for permanent demos outside fur shops or elsewhere was directly imported from Britain. It was something new in Austria. It took a while before it became clear that these new tactics of protest would not alienate the public, if carefully applied, and that the media as well as the politicians, especially from the opposition, are much more sympathetic and open to animal rights than they were in England. I think we have now reached an effective mixture of the two kinds of tactical approach, avoiding the pitfalls of infighting between animal rights and animal welfare, and still running radical, honest and successful campaigns.

BB: You were arrested on one of the most famous grassroots demonstrations in our movement's history - when a riot broke out at Consort Kennels and a beagle was almost successfully liberated in the midst of it. Can you tell this story (briefly - and include how you had that very beagle on your lap as you were driven to jail) and how it changed you.

MB: At this demo, to the surprise of all of us, many thousand people turned up. The police had cordoned off the place and some 300 riot cops were inside. At the very beginning, some activists used the moment of surprised, managed to get into Consort Beagles and liberate a beagle. However, soon the riot cops closed in and cut off their escape route. Suddenly, masked activists appeared on the roof top with a beagle in their hands and called to the other protestors to help.

It was a tremendous upsurge of energy and, riot cops or none, people ripped down the fence and stormed in. Soon, police were driven back and the activists from the roof could dive into the crowd with the beagle. Everybody started to roll up some clothes on their arms, so that it looked as if they were carrying a beagle and walked off to their vehicles. The police were freaked and tried to prevent that at all costs.

I happened to be in the group of people, maybe 10, who were carrying the dog. Suddenly, a lone police officer came and checked us, soon spotting the dog. While some distracted the officer, I took hold of the dog and ran off, since I was very fit from lots of sabbing in those days. But a police car spotted me and set a police dog loose on me, who came and bit me and was clinging on to me till police caught up. Some activists came and we all held on to the dog and built a huge heap of bodies, by then surrounded by ever more coppers. When they were many more than us, they started to attack and arrest one by one, till I was left alone with the dog. I was put into a police car, with the dog on my lap, and was driven to the police station, where, eventually, they took the dog away by force.

It was a very moving experience, and very sad for this particular dog. But it was also a powerful experience, to realize that we are strong enough to break through police cordons with hundreds of riot cops, if need be, to liberate one beagle dog. The atmosphere then among the protestors and the will to help, and the smart action for everyone to run off pretending to have the dog, was admirable. It took them hours to catch the dog by shear luck, many miles away from Consort Beagles. Now, Consort Beagles has long been closed.

> Three groups of activists broke into, altogether, 48 battery farms, keeping 40% of all laying hens in Austria, and publicized the conditions there, including that all laws and regulations were broken...
>
> Battery farms will be illegal in Austria from 1st January 2009



BB: Also while in England you were very public in your show of support for convicted ALF activist Barry Horne, whilst on hunger strike, hanging off the side of a church steeple in Cambridge with a banner. Barry's amazing legacy is still be debated today, as a supporter and an activist that has traveled extensively how do you think he affected our movement as a whole with his sacrifice?

MB: Barry Horne was a very brave activist. I used to sab mink hunts with him, and sometimes it was just us two intervening. When I was shit scared, he acted nevertheless and pulled me with him. Similarly in his campaign of economic sabotage and then in his hunger-strike, he was fearless, focused on the issue and determined to pull it through.

Every movement has its history. That is important, because it forms an identity for the movement that can help to get you and others to commit yourselves to the cause. It is often not easy to drop your "normal" life, or to risk imprisonment, but without such brave acts I doubt we will ever succeed. We need the "mad" people in the movement, who are willing to invest all they have in the cause. It's the most important cause I can think of, worth such investment, especially with the prospect of serious change ahead.

I would like us to learn from Barry's death how much we need each other, how much we depend upon each other in this movement, to be successful and to achieve real progress. Let's drop the infighting and destructive arguments on tactics or positions, but go ahead and smash the animal industries each in our own way, supportive to the rest of us. We are one movement, united in the will to change things for the better with regards to animal abuse, there is enough room for different tactics, but there is no limit in how much we need to pull on the same rope, when it comes down to it.

BB: What is your all time favorite ALF action?

MB: On 6th July 1985, I believe, activists entered University Park Farm in Oxford, England, where animals for vivisection are being held, for reconnaissance. They found Rosy, a mixed breed dog, obviously someone's pet, who was about to be used for transplant experiments. In this night, the most famous picture of Rosy in an activists arm was made. The activists left and Rosy stayed behind.

In the next night, Rosy was liberated together with 31 other dogs from this place. But, very few days later, police raids in Birmingham found Rosy and identified her as coming from this lab. She was brought back there.

Some days later, on the 18th July 1985, the activists came back and liberated Rosy again. She then continued to live for about 18 years in a loving family until she died peacefully. What an amazing story!

liberating: PATTY MARK



Patty Mark is the founder and president of **Animal Liberation Victoria** (*www.alv.org.au*). Patty and ALV's Rescue Team have visited dozens of chicken farms in Australia, rescuing hundreds of chickens from death. Patty has been openly rescuing farmed animals for nearly 20 years, inspiring activists around the world. Earlier this year, she received a 17-day prison sentence for non-payment of fines, resulting from "trespassing" at egg farms, although the police have yet to come and get her. Patty has consistently refused to pay fines, perform community service, or to sign bail conditions not to return to factory farms.

"*For many years I wrote countless letters, attended meetings with numerous Minister's for Agriculture, inspected factory farms and abattoirs around Australia, submitted reports to legal authorities, lobbied government agencies and begged the police and especially the RSPCA for help. None of this worked. I received on-going appeals and complaints about conditions from workers inside factory farms. Then in 1993, born out of sheer frustration and torment of knowing what was happening to so many animals - combined with repeated lack of attention or resolution by the legal authorities - our 'open rescue' life saving efforts began.*"

-**Patty Mark**; Statement to Magistrates Court on Non-Payment of Fines, July 12, 2005; Victoria, Australia.

The intensive caging of layer hens has been one of the main campaigns of animal rights groups in Australia since the 1970's. What's the status of efforts to ban battery cages in Australia?

There was an amazing united and long standing effort around Australia to bring about a ban on the battery cage that climaxed in 2000 when this issue was on the Agenda of the National Meeting of all State Ministers of Agriculture. When the Ministers failed to ban the cage and only gave slightly more space to hens inside their wire prisons the overall attention from the animal movement waned on this issue. Our open rescue team still rescues battery hens, but our main focus the past five years has been on 'broiler chickens'. This August however, we conducted our 21st rescue at Happy Hens Egg World (sic) and found the same filthy conditions, cobwebs, dead rotting bodies, sick and dying birds unable to access food and water... the only change was they have gutted the old rusty four tiers of wire cages and replaced them with cages EIGHT TIERS HIGH, so instead of the 20,000 battery hens per shed there are now 80,000.

You have said before that animals are "invisible before the law." What do you think is the value of political efforts for animals? What should be the role of politics in the struggle for animal liberation?

After almost 30 years in this movement I am more convinced than ever that grassroots activism is the single most important tool in the box. Who you work with or without, how you do it, whatever approach you want to take, just do it... assuming of course we're talking about a non violent and vegan baseline. It's also vital to stress over and over again that animals are not property. We must find as many ways as possible of saying, writing and instilling this concept until it's common knowledge.

A related question; what do you think about single-issue politics (political campaigning/support based on one issue)? In the U.S., most major animal welfare groups actively support politicians who vote the "right" way on pro-animal legislation, despite the fact that many of these same politicians vote the "wrong" way on legislation affecting civil liberties, the environment, and a host of other social issues.

My gut level instincts are to support integrity and ethics at every twist and turn, anything else wouldn't be honest or longstanding. It's a universal challenge but possible to find solutions that ensure dignity and respect for all. I've never had much trust or hope in politicians, it's a game that takes a great deal of energy and time. I've known a few politicians, Richard Jones comes to mind, who have held a banner high for just causes including animals, but these guys are few and far between.

After conducting investigations at farms, ALV encourages city council's to file cruelty charges against farmers. Do you have more luck with local governments?

No, we haven't but we've just started to lobby local Councils and the immediate replies are very dismissive and unhelpful. What is needed is more grassroots actions outside the council offices as well as the rate paying shops and businesses selling the cruel end products of the factory farms to bring the message home. We did this recently regarding a huge puppy breeding factory farm we had been exposing for almost ten years. Two very large and continually loud demo's outside major events put on by the local Council involved did the trick and the puppy factory farm was closed on July 31 this year!

The failure of the federal government to protect animals is not surprising, but you are also "battling" the RSPCA. In Australia, the RSPCA has a responsibility

to act on evidence of cruelty to animals. Yet, despite being presented with clear evidence of animal suffering at numerous factory farms, the RSPCA has never launched a cruelty prosecution following an ALV investigation. Why do you think the RSPCA is so ineffective in protecting animals in farms?

The RSPCA in Australia is in business with factory farmers, so how can we possibly expect them to make a difference for farmed animals. The RSPCA receive royalties from all "Liberty" Barn Laid Eggs produced by PACE FARMS (the largest producer of battery eggs in Australia). Pace Farms in turn does business with Happy Hens Egg World and on it goes, I've finally fully understood the meaning of an 'old boys club'. The RSPCA in Australia is also very outspoken that there is nothing wrong with eating and farming animals, they continually degrade ALV's 'agenda' to promote vegetarianism, as if once the public knows what we're really on about they will realise we're just a bunch of 'radical terrorists' trying to force our lifestyle and diet on others. The RSPCA should be leading the way forward for animals yet I'm not aware of one time in the past three decades the RSPCA has lodged an objection against a planning permit for a factory farm much less exercised their considerable prosecution powers against POCTAA [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act] violations causing the prolonged suffering and hideous deaths of multiple animals.

In a visit to a farm (Parkhurst Farm) in March of this year, you were fortunate to find sympathetic police who arranged for ALV to remove sick and dying hens from their cages for veterinary care. It's amazing that you have more luck with the police than with the RSPCA!

Parkhurst Farms is actually a 'broiler' chicken factory and in March this year we found over 50 very ill and crippled chicks who were only a few days old and 120 dead bodies within an hour of being inside the shed. There were many others needing attention and we were overwhelmed with the task of helping them all, so I rang the police. The Sergeant attending was visibly distressed by the situation and helped us take the birds to a vet. The RSPCA refused to take any action as the number of birds involved was too low a percentage of birds affected considering the shed held 40,000 chicks (so much for all creatures great and small!). Between January 2004 and March 2005 our rescue team conducted 17 undercover inspections on this property and rescued 219 birds needing veterinary care. The police have our 65 page cruelty complaint and 80 minute compilation dvd and are currently investigating.

For a long time, conventional wisdom was that farmers would not press charges against open rescue activists because any trial would result in negative publicity for their businesses. Some farms in Australia are now surrounded with electric fences, and guarded by dogs. In July, ALV activists were sexually and physically assaulted during a daylight raid at the largest egg factory in the state of Victoria. In the U.S., three activists have been charged with burglary following an open rescue in New York, and face years in prison. Do you think the days of farmer's choosing to ignore open rescues are coming to an end?

Deb and I were the two activists assaulted in July during a daylight rescue at Happy Hens (for five years we had been unable to get past the guard dogs and electrified 11 foot fence in place after working hours). We have made statements to the Police and are vigorously seeking a prosecution against the violent men who assaulted us and who have total control over every caged hen on the property. On August 11 this year (a couple weeks after our assault) our rescue team returned to Happy Hens in the middle of the night and successfully passed through the eleven foot high electrified fence surrounding Happy Hens, dodged the huge Alsatian guard dogs on patrol inside the fence and waded through mud and building rubble surrounding the sheds to gain entry, we then rescued 6 hens and took damning video evidence of animal abuse. We yet again asked the RSPCA to do an inspection, their reply on September 30 stated there were "no animal cruelty issues...observed" and "two birds were located that (sic) appeared to be in need of intervention, however when they were removed from the cages, appeared healthy." [note this is out of 110,000 birds they claim to have randomly inspected!?] No charges have been laid against any members of our rescue team. Bearing in mind there are currently 8 warrants outstanding for my imprisonment (17 days) for unpaid fines - some from Happy Hen rescues in the past!

You have said before that [illegible]use open rescues do not damage property, they are not an immediate threat to industry. Obviously, rescuing animals from farms is of tremendous value, and open rescues have been successful in educating the public. Have your feelings about the effectiveness of open rescue as a tactic changed over the years?

Yes, any rescue which saves any animal's life is of tremendous value. I believe Open Rescue as a tactic for real and large scale change has tremendous potential if it is practised widely and wisely on a global scale. This has not happened yet. Let's consider when Hurricane Katrina struck and countless people and animals were trapped, injured, some dying and needing urgent rescue... good people from all walks of life and directions came forward to help - even though the 'authorities' were so slow to act (sound familiar). Goodwill lies deep within so many of us. Every single day is a hurricane of hell for battery hens, chicks raised for their flesh, pigs in concrete stalls and crippled turkeys crammed in sheds sitting in their own excrement. It's just as important and just as valid for all good people to come to their aid. The flesh and egg factories are worldwide; this is where grassroots activists need to act locally at any animal factories near them.

What do you think about the Animal Liberation Front?

Individuals who put their own freedom on the line and rescue tortured animals and destroy the equipment harming the innocents are very brave and very strong in their hearts and minds. It's a 'freedom' that few people really grasp and experience, I know I haven't. How many of us would have done all we could to rescue people from the concentration camps, and then how many of us would have then smashed the ovens on the way out so others wouldn't have to die? The ALF do this for animals!

In the U.S., the United Kingdom and in many other countries, governments have been in a frenzy passing laws targeting activists. Many of the new laws have been passed under the veil of "fighting terrorism." Is it becoming more difficult to be an activist in Australia?

It is definitely more challenging in the current world climate to do undercover animal rescues, but not impossible. The best help I've ever had is a book called Being Nobody, Going Nowhere written by Ayya Khema, a vegan feminist buddhist nun who once slipped me $20 to help rescue a battery hen.

After almost 30 years in this movement I am more convinced than ever that grassroots activism is the single most important tool in the box.



CAN YOU SPOT THE TERRORIST?



Eric Rudolph

Bombed numerous targets including the Atlanta Olympics, and several abortion and women's clinic and gay and lesbian night clubs.

Rudolph's targets were selected based on his religious beliefs.



Animal Rights Activists

Releases or relocates animals from horrifying conditions, breaks windows and spraypaints walls. Occasionally uses arson when precautions are taken to insure no one will be injured. In over 25 years not one animal, human or otherwise, has been killed or hurt.



Timothy McVeigh

Homemade truck bomb killed 168 people at Oklahoma Federal Building, almost all civilians, including 19 children in the building's daycare.

McVeigh had close ties to the patriotic militia movements.

DONT WORRY IF YOU CANT...

OUR GOVERNMENTS CAN!

(*and here's what they're doing about it*)

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In the U.S., the federal government has used the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, the RICO Act, the Patriot Act and other laws to undermine animal rights protest and to intimidate and harass activists.

Of course, in the minds of those in power, criminal activity is never adequately covered by existing criminal law. There are always legal loopholes to be plugged, penalties to be increased, and more powers to bestow upon law enforcement.

Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act was enacted in 1992 and amended several times since then. It was used to imprison Peter Young, and the law under which the SHAC 7 were indicted.

The Act made it a separate crime to cause "physical disruption" (stealing, damaging property) to an "animal enterprise" (any entity that uses animals for food or fiber, research or entertainment).

*As a federal law, it only applies to actions that involve the crossing of state lines, the use of the U.S. Postal Service (or maybe even a telephone), or that target businesses involved in "interstate commerce" – which covers pretty much everything.

In October, Senator James Inhofe introduced legislation to amend the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, expanding the law's reach and increasing penalties. Senator Inhofe explained that his bill (S.1926), "specifically addresses the 'tertiary targeting' tactic employed by eco-terrorists by prohibiting intentional damage of property belonging to a person or organization with ties to an animal enterprise. Currently, only the animal enterprise itself is covered by law."

S.1926

Key Points

Force, violence, and threats involving animal enterprises.

The legislation would make it a crime to damage or disrupt an animal enterprise "or any property of a person or entity having a connection to, relationship with, or transactions with the animal enterprise," or if you conspire to do the above. *We think of the bill as 'Six Degrees of Huntingdon Life Sciences.'*

It would also become a crime to "intentionally" place a person in "reasonable fear" of injury or death through harassment, threats, vandalism or

trespass. *How does trespassing make someone fear for their life?*

To prove intent, a "continuity of purpose" would have to be established, requiring two or more acts. *So if you're going to threaten someone, make sure you only do it once? (No, this is NOT legal advice.)*

Definitions

S.1926 would broaden the definition of "economic disruption" to include losses or increased costs resulting from "threats, property damage, trespass, harassment, or intimidation" against a business or an individual because of "their relationship with an animal enterprise."

STATE LAWS

Since 2001, more than a dozen states have introduced laws directly addressing "eco-terrorism." We found two interesting bills that are currently being debated in state capitols.

New York. A bill still in committee in the New York Assembly would criminalize photographing and videotaping an animal facility if your intent is to "defame the facility or its owner."

The bill would prohibit providing support to an organization that damages an animal facility, trespasses at such a facility, or that enters the facility to take pictures. Support would include donating money, driving an activist across town, or any other type of assistance that "will be used in whole or in part, to encourage, plan, prepare, carry out, publicize, promote or aid an act of animal or ecological terrorism."

Finally (and this is the best part!), the bill would create a "registry of animal and ecological terrorists," a state-run website listing the name, address, and photograph of guilty activists. *How cool would that be! We imagine it as an online dating service for radical activists.*

Pennsylvania. A bill that has already passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives would create a crime of "eco-terrorism." You would be guilty if you damaged property with the intention to "intimidate or coerce" or "prevent or obstruct," someone from "participating in an activity involving animals" or natural resources. *So if your peaceful civil disobedience demo is considered intimidating, then you are an eco-terrorist.*

THE UNITED KINGDOM

It's becoming difficult to actively oppose something in the UK—whether it's the war on Iraq, nuclear weapons or the torture of animals in farms and laboratories. The gov't and their big business friends are doing their best to criminalize protest. You can't blink your eyes without a new repressive law popping-up. As of today, there's the Public Order Act, Malicious Communications Act, Criminal Justice & Public Order Act, Protection from Harassment Act, Criminal Justice & Police Act, Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO), and the Serious Organised Crime and Police (SOCA) Act. Not to mention to use of civil injunctions (used by Huntingdon Life Sciences and the University of Oxford), and the government's efforts to prevent people with dangerous ideas from entering the country.

ASBO and SOCA *(great names for companion animals!)* are the British government's latest attempts to keep protestors away from animal abusing business and the homes of employees, and to criminalize anything that could possibly be considered "intimidation" or "harassment." You can get an ASBO for anything, maybe even for looking anti-social.

But all this wasn't enough. Tony Blair has created a new way to restrict your freedom to protest – the Terrorism Bill 2005!

Just in case you think this won't affect you, the Home Secretary has confirmed that the legislation would apply to those who promote or justify "terrorist acts" in the cause of animal rights.

TERRORISM BILL 2005

Key Points

Detention of terrorist suspects.

It's awfully depressing that Britain allows police to detain suspects for 14 days without charge, but now they want to extend the detention period to three months for "terror" suspects.

Encouragement of terrorism.

The printed word has become too dangerous. The Act makes it a criminal offense to publish a "statement" that encourages or "glorifies" acts of terrorism, if in doing so you had "reasonable grounds for believing" the statement would encourage or glorify terrorism. *Be careful who reads your words!*

The government defines glorification as "any form of praise or celebration." *Is wearing a Che Guevara t-shirt glorification of violence?*

Dissemination of terrorist publications.

Under the Act, it would be a crime to sell or distribute a terrorist publication, or provide a service that enables others to "obtain, read, listen to or look at such a publication." You'll also become a criminal if you transmit the contents of such a publication electronically, or if you are found with such a publication in your possession.

What is a "terrorist publication?" A publication that directly or indirectly encourages acts of terrorism, or provides assistance in the commission of such acts. *What information is useful in conducting a terrorist act? A street map? Phone book?*

How does someone avoid "indirect" encouragement of terrorism? Call us crazy, but shouldn't criminal law be clear?

Of course, the big elephant in the room is the vague definition of terrorism. Under the Act, "terrorism" includes the use AND the threat of violence against a person OR serious damage to property, with the purpose of advancing a "political, religious or ideological cause."

The mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, has warned that, "Under the government's proposals, Nelson Mandela would have been banned and anyone supporting him would be criminalized."

If in exercising your freedom of expression you violate the Terrorism Bill 2005, the penalty is seven years in prison!

▼ THE INTERNATIONAL TREND

It's not just the UK and US that are competing to be the toughest on terror; many other countries have dismissed fundamental human rights, such as freedom of association and expression, in the name of fighting "terrorism."

Australian Prime Minister John Howard is also pushing new terror laws. His Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005 would allow for "preventive detention" of suspects and would make it easier for police to stop and search individuals, to tap phone calls and monitor mail. The bill would also broaden Australia's Sedition law to allow the government to ban organizations which advocate changes to Australian law by unlawful means, such as civil disobedience. In Germany, the government can ban organizations that promote illegality. In Italy, police can now take samples of saliva or hair for DNA testing without consent. In Spain, "glorifying terrorism" is now a crime.

▶ WHO IS THIS FANATIC?!



Who is Jim Inhofe? The Senator from Oklahoma has said that prisoners at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison deserved to be tortured. He considers global warming a "hoax" and has lumped together as "far-Left environmental extremists" the National Resources Defense Council and the Earth Liberation Front. He thinks animal liberation and environmental activists have abandoned God in favor or "worshipping the creation – the creeping things, the four-legged beasts, the birds and all that. That's their god. That's what they worship."



PUPPY MILLS VS THE PATRIOT ACT?!

HOW DID THEY VOTE, AND HOW DID THEY GET PAID?

Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum shares his home with a German Shepherd named Schatzie. Perhaps because of her, Sen. Santorum is supporting a bill to restrict puppy mills. But hold your applause. The League of Conservation Voters gave Rick a 0% rating for his environmental votes. He supports opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil companies, and he's infamous for comments comparing homosexuality to incest and bestiality. But in return for a few pro-animal votes, the Humane USA political action committee gave him $5000 for his re-election campaign.

Humane USA gave California Congressman Elton Gallegly $7500 during his campaign for re-election. Rep. Gallegly is notable for sponsoring legislation to restrict the sale of tigers and other big cats. We agree with Elton that tigers are not pets, but we're puzzled why he voted to limit the flexibility of judges in sentencing, and to allow courts to deny bail for people charged with "terrorist" offenses.

Humane USA is a political action committee supported by The Humane Society of the United States, The Fund for Animals, Farm Sanctuary, ASPCA, Doris Day Animal League and other national animal groups. Its mission is to elect "humane-minded candidates."

On its website, Humane USA names "Top 15" Senators and Representatives who are leaders on animal issues. With a few exceptions (such as Rep. Dennis Kucinich), the politicians on the list should cause concern for all but the strictest single-issue voter.

Nine of the Top 15 Senators voted in support of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which weakens the Clean Water Act, gifts billions of dollars in tax breaks to polluting industries, and does nothing to encourage energy efficiency. The bill was opposed by such radical environmental organizations as the National Audubon Society and the Sierra Club. 12 Representatives who were endorsed by Humane USA in the last election voted in support of legislation to "protect" landowners and gut the Endangered Species Act.

We're happy that politicians are trying to help animals in puppy mills, but victories are difficult to swallow when the same politicians vote to expand the Patriot Act, relax logging restrictions on federal lands, or subsidize factory farming. Ending the sale of dog and cat fur was a real victory, but how much do animals benefit in the long-term if activists can't hold a demonstration due to fears of being targeted as a "terrorist?"

The WORST of the "Best"

But don't take our word for it, look at the votes! In the following chart, Bite Back fleshes out the votes of some of Humane USA's favorite politicians -

SO, HOW DID THEY VOTE?



Senator Daniel Akaka
(*Hawaii*)
(Received $1000 from Humane USA.)
Wrong votes:
①,③,⑦



Senator Wayne Allard
(*Colorado*)
Wrong votes:
①,②,③,④,
⑤,⑥,⑦,⑧



Senator John Ensign
(*Nevada*)
(Received $5000 from Humane USA.)
Wrong votes:
①,③,④,⑥,
⑦,⑧,⑨



Senator Rick Santorum
(*Pennsylvania*)
(Received $5000 from Humane USA.)
Wrong votes:
①,②,③,④,
⑥,⑦,⑧,⑨



Rep. Elton Gallegly
(*California*)
(Received $7500 from Humane USA.)
Wrong votes:
①,③,④,⑤,
⑥,⑦,⑧,⑨



Rep. Ed Whitfield
(*Kentucky*)
(Received $2500 from Humane USA.)
Wrong votes:
①,③,④,⑥,
⑦,⑧,⑨

THE VOTES

① Voted in support of the **Energy Policy Act of 2005**.

② **Human pesticide testing**. A bill passed in June 2005 prevents the Environmental Protection Agency from conducting human pesticide tests. Apparently, testing pesticides on people raises "moral questions." Despite this, these politicians voted against the bill.

③ **ANWR**. There have been several close votes on the Bush administration's plan to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—home to wolves, grizzly bears, migratory birds and caribou — to destructive oil and gas drilling. These politicians support opening the Refuge.

④ **Central America Free Trade Agreement**. CAFTA benefits global corporations at the expense of workers, animals and the environment. Regulations concerning cosmetic testing, steel-jaw leghold traps, and driftnet fishing may be nullified under CAFTA as barriers to free trade. CAFTA will make it easier for companies like Tyson and Smithfield to open factory farms in Central America. These politicians support CAFTA.

⑤ **Torture** (remember the photos from Abu Ghraib?). In two recent votes, Congress supported amendments to prohibit "cruel, inhuman, and degrading" treatment of prisoners in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere. These politicians are among the few who support torture.

⑥ **Patriot Act**. The USA Patriot Act is set to expire at the end of 2006. These politicians voted to reauthorize and expand the Act, making it easier for the government to monitor telephone calls and e-mails, conduct secret, no-warrant searches, and to collect financial and library records and other personal information of law-abiding Americans.

⑦ These politicians were noted as "**Friend of Farm Bureau**." Each year, the American Farm Bureau awards politicians who vote in support of the Bureau's positions. The Farm Bureau opposes environmental regulations targeting factory farms or restrictions on the use of pesticides, opposes ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, and opposes increasing the minimum wage. The Farm Bureau supports genetically engineered food, million-dollar subsidies to corporate-owned farms, and dismantling the Endangered Species Act.

⑧ **NAACP**. The civil rights organization graded politicians based on their support of minority health services, education and job training, international AIDS relief, homeless programs and child-care funding. Unfortunately, these politicians received an F grade.

⑨ **The American Civil Liberties Union** also rated politicians based on their votes on important civil liberties measures, such as an expansion of government surveillance powers, limiting the discretion of judges in sentencing, banning religious discrimination, and restricting reproductive rights. These politicians received scores of less than 15%.

the RUSSIAN ALF SUP

THE ANIMAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA

Activity of the Animal Liberation Front in Russia has only begun 5 years ago, but animal rights direct actions have occurred much earlier.

HOW DID THIS ALL BEGIN

On an autumn night in 1992 in the center of the capital of Russia - the city of Moscow a show-window was broken with great sound. It was the show window of the gallery "Regina" where Oleg Kulik had his performance. This person had arranged the murder of a pig just for the publics' fun, specifically having employed a butcher for these purposes. Those who were against it, organized the night action and broke the show-windows.

In 1994 activists of Nizhniy Novgorod (the oldest city of Russia) got into the laboratory of one of the universities and released dogs from it. Similar actions occured in other cities, but little is known about them.

In 1995 in the city of Kaliningrad an activist organized an action against a mobile zoo, and painted slogans on the open-air cages. She was detained by security and sent to the militia. However no charges followed and she was released.

Since 2000, activists fed up with the violence, have decided to operate against the industries of death on behalf of the Animal Liberation Front. In 2000, activists in the southern regions of Russia focused on educating the population about the cruelty of "factories of the death" - ruthless users of animals. Office buildings of meat processing enterprises and their transport were repeatedly painted with slogans. On meat transport vehicles, exposing inscriptions "Dead Body Transporter" were painted. Advertising billboards of butchers were poured with paint and were attacked with paint bombs. Opposing show businesses, slogans were painted on the walls of the circus and dolphinarium in the city of Sochi, and also on open-air cages of the zoo in Maikop. Actions against the use of fur followed. Some advertising billboards were painted with slogans against bloody fashion. Similar slogans appeared on the shops trading furs. Their advertising billboard was burnt. The responsibility for the actions was taken by Animal Liberation Front.

ANIMAL LIBERATION FROM LABS

The first actions of animal liberation were organized in Moscow. On April 21st, 2004, before the International Day for Animals in Labs, the lab of the First Medical Academy was visited. 119 frogs were taken out of the building. All frogs were taken out of the city and released at a place where they could live a high-grade life. The next action followed very soon: on May 8th, 110 rats and 5 rabbits from the lab of a biological facility of the Moscow State University disappeared. The press was the first to inform the public about the disappearance. In a newspaper article it was said that animal rights slogans were left on walls of the lab, and cages were broken. Some days later, the communique was published where it was specified that the action was carried out by the Animal Liberation Front. In the Municipal Department of Internal Affairs of Moscow this action was named as vandalism, hooliganism and theft.

From May of 2004 till May 2005 the Animal Liberation Front repeatedly visited the labs of the Moscow State University, having released 204 rats, 6 rabbits and 5 frogs. During three raids 295 frogs were released from the lab of the First Medical Academy.

On May 29th, 2005 about 3 thousand mice were released from the central breeding farm of laboratory animals of the Russian Academies of Medical Science in the settlement Andreevka (the area Solnechnogorsky, the Moscow region). The responsibility for this action was taken by The Animal Rights Militia which was the first known ARM action in Russia. One month later activists appeared again on this farm and liberated about 100 rats. 166 more were released in a forest outside of the farm.

ANIMAL LIBERATION FROM FUR FARMS

On May 2nd, 2005 for the first time, the aim of the Russian Animal Liberation Front (RALF) was a fur farm in the Moscow region. Two polar foxes were released from their cages. On June 3rd, more than 180 ferrets were released from a fur farm.

Activists not only released animals. They cut down fences, broke cages and left spray painted slogans, declaring the reasons of the actions. As a result, for three warm months of 2005, animals were liberated from more farms in the Moscow region: 2 silver foxes, 2 raccoons, 3 sables, 82 mink and approximately 180 ferrets. All of them were released in forests far away from the farms. During the raids some cages with animals were opened, with the hopes that lots of foxes and sables could also taste freedom.

ANIMAL LIBERATION FROM THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

From July until September 2004, activists organized three raids on the hunt training station. As a result 4 foxes and 1 raccoon were released. Activists explained they could not rescue all the animals as the owner kept a close eye on the station. On August 30th, 2005 in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi where five years before it had been declared the first action of the RALF, a raccoon was liberated which was used for entertainment for tourists at an exhibition of exotic animals. The raccoon was released out of the cage and into the woods near a river, far away from people, where it could live a great life.

ECONOMIC SABOTAGE

During the first five years of existence of the RALF there were not liberations, but many actions of economic sabotage. In several regions of Russia there were paint attacks against fur, hunting and butcher shops. In Moscow alone, more than 30 shops were painted.

5 questions WITH THE RALF SG

1. What is the current state of animal rights in Russia?

There are two animal rights groups in Moscow at the moment. "Vita", the Center for Animal Rights Protection, has an organized management with a president and director, who make the decisions. Their activity is mainly inside of one region of Moscow. This organization represents reformists, whose goal is to create legislation in Russia to protect animals from violent treatment and popularization of ethical treatment of animals. The second one is Alliance for Animal Rights; it's more young and has a collective structure without leading members. Because all members are equal, decisions are taken by consensus. Alliance for Animal Rights (AAR) is a more active organization and supports direct action and protests against animal abusers. During actions, Alliance for Animal Rights activists have been detained many times. The AAR exists as a network and has groups in different regions of the country, where other groups for animal rights are, which mainly link with the AAR.

2. Do you think the RALF actions are having an effect on the abuse industries?

After ALF actions many things have changed. For example, one of the most important actions was the liberation from labs at the State Moscow University Biologic Department. After this, the public interest in university-sponsored vivisection has appeared. It was widely covered by the media and some of the Biological Department staff members made their statements, who openly said what was going on behind the walls of their labs. Students

PORTERS GROUP

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In September 2004 and February 2005 activists poured red oil paint on advertising boards of the fur shops in the center of Moscow. As a result two posters were dismantled.

Actions against the organizations connected with hunting were also painted and glued. In particular, the Diplomatic Hunting Club and some societies of hunters and fishers in Moscow were repeatedly spray painted.

On May 21st, 2005 in the Pathological Physiology department of the Second Medical University, cages and the refrigerating units were destroyed, and slogans were left. Similar damage was done at the Biological Department of the Moscow State University on May 12th. But not before forgs were liberated and other equipment was sabotaged.

THE SUPPORTERS GROUP

In Russia the most current information on ALF activity is posted on our ALF Supporters Group website: AELiberation.net, where not only resources for activists are posted, but also the latest news about actions of the RALF and from all over the world. The communiqués we receive anonymously are then forwarded on to our site, mailing list and the media.

The Supporters Group is also engaged in printing and distributing fliers. All interested in additional information receive brochures, stickers and leaflets for distribution. In the near future we plan on releasing compact discs with music and video, putting on benefit concerts for ALF support and a variety of other projects to raise awareness.

Time to time articles in mass media appear where vivisectors, furriers or misguided members of other animal protection groups try to accuse the ALF of extremism. Despite any of it, the struggle for animal liberation in Russia constantly grows and gets new supporters.

began to protest against using animals after the ALF actions.

3. Do you receive a lot of harassment from the government or organizations that disagree with the ALF and their support?

The ALF SG has seen evidence of criminal cases brought after some ALF actions. Some of the students and staff at the Biological Department were examined, but no measures were taken against them and other people. During many ALF actions, activists have met security, but all have ended without incident. Every time activists were able to get away. There are more problems with authorities during aboveground protests. Activists are detained by police frequently and they receive threats from representatives of the factories of death they are protesting. The ALF SG also receives death threats. Representatives of aboveground animal rights groups have different opinions about the ALF. For example, representatives of Vita making speeches at press conferences, in their press releases and in information they spread among supporters of the animal rights movement that state that ALF activists and their supporters are extremists. Activists of Alliance for Animal Rights have the opposite opinion, believing that all non-violent methods should be used in the struggle for animal rights.

4. Do you think there is a chance for political change, as well as direct action, for animals in Russia?

In Russia today there are few laws (legislations) which aid in animal protection. There is article in the Crime Code on cruel treatment of animals, which gives a maximum punishment - 2 years in prison. But this article is used mostly against those people who don't have enought money for lawyers. But in cases where it is real cruelty to animals this article is not effective. Nevertheless, some chances to change the policy of this country for animal protection is still possible.

5. What is your favorite ALF action?

All actions are important and interesting. All of them affect a situation in the animal rights movement in society. It's important to make people know that just sitting at home in front of their computers does very little for animals. One needs to overcome their own fear and do something, not waiting for someone else will do it.

GO GADGET

MAKING RAIDS EASIER ONE TOOL AT A TIME.

Now we can't say we're talking from experience, but rather from acute observance. We've read enough 'how it was dones' and 'what went wrongs' and communiques and have watched enough direct action videos to make the educated statement:

"Too bad you didn't have this."

Issue ten answers the age-old question - sure we can trash a lab and release some mink, but how do we get in?

Fences. Barricades. Walls. Even minefields, these pups will take care of business.

TELESTEPS 12.5' PRO MODEL

What more of a selling point do you need beyond the smile on this guy's face? And he's just setting it up for a demonstration! But come night time we're sure he's taking this amazing ladder out for some action.

And why not? After getting your hands on this ladder you're going to be looking for an excuse to use it. And we're sure you'll find one. At just 2-1/2 feet tall and 23lbs, you can sling this over your back, on your bike, or easily in the back of your car. Carry it up to your next target and in seconds, you'll have a 12-1/2 foot ladder, made of a specially processed aluminum for strength. It has a 300 lb rating, so unless you're carrying a pony over a fence, it will be able to handle anything.

to top it off, it's made in Sweden. Now we all know the Swedes are up to no good. (just see the graph on page 29.)







WHAT ELSE YOU GOT?

THE MILITARY GRABBER

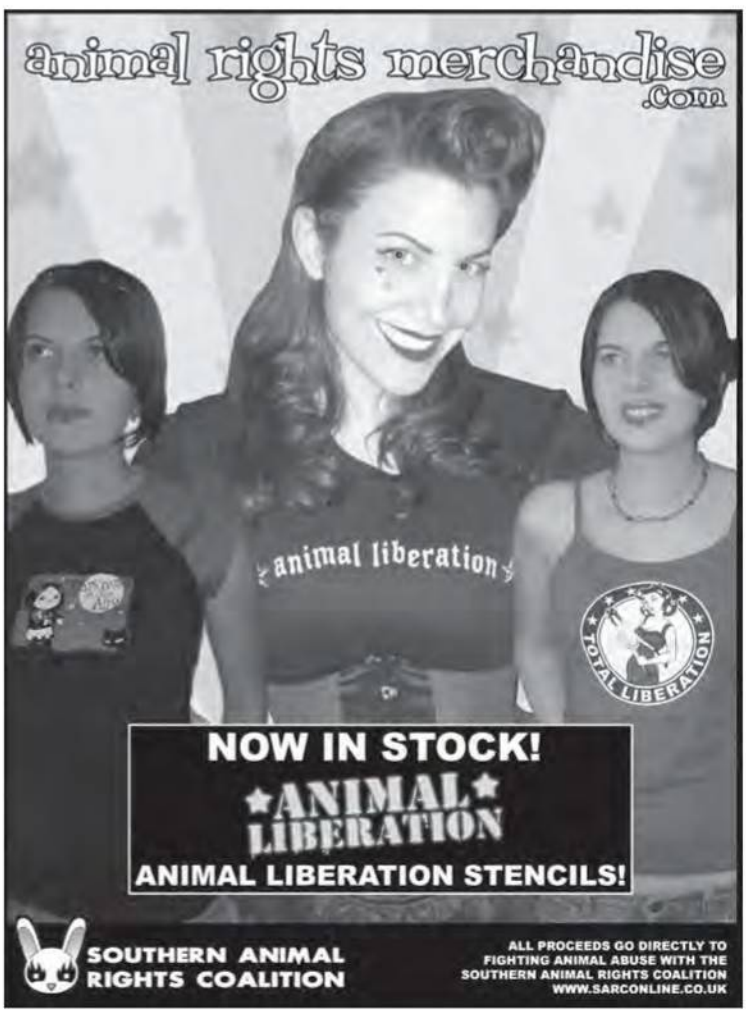
OK, so a ladder just isn't ninja enough. So why not go old school and bring along this top of the line grappling hook - the Military Grabber. Hopefully we don't need to explain how a grappling hook works, besides pointing out that it folds up for easy transport.

Sure, you could weld some rebar together in your highschool shop class and tie some rope to it. But this grabber was chosen by the Special Operations Forces of the US Military for their Urban Ops Kit. Its also the granel of choice for many US and foreign forces. If its good enough for them, its good enough for our troops!

Not only is this thing getting you over walls - it will help you in pulling down pesky barbed wire and certain entry points, but according to the manufacturer, it aids making trip wires and clearing minefields!









diary of action

june to october

SWEDEN - SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 - 17 FERRETS LIBERATED

LIBERATIONS

06/13/05 (UK) ALF sabotaged government badger cull; four badgers liberated, hundreds of traps destroyed.
06/17/05 (UK) Fence cut, deer freed from farm in Leicestershire; signs advertising venison destroyed.
06/22/05 (Sweden) Two rabbits liberated from breeder outside Linkoping.
06/23/05 (Austria) 40 battery chickens liberated in Lower Austria.
06/23/05 (Russia) ALF released eight sables from cages at fur farm in Pushkino; cages smashed.
06/25/05 (Turkey) Two crabs liberated, fishing net destroyed on Istanbul's Black Sea coast.
06/29/05 (Russia) One fox liberated from fur farm in Balashikha.
July (Austria) 20 birds released from bird catcher in Bad Ischl, cages smashed.
07/06/05 (UK) Eight baby rabbits liberated from pet shop breeder in Somerset.
07/08/05 (Spain) Every cage opened at fur farm near Lavacolla. Estimated 35,000 mink released!
07/08/05 (UK) Dog rescued from appalling conditions at a West Sussex home, by activists posing as the RSPCA.
07/12/05 (Turkey) 15 pigeons liberated in Tekirdag.
07/17/05 (Russia) 70 mink released from cages on fur farm near Moscow.
07/18/05 (UK) Five badgers released from government traps, 221 traps destroyed, in South Gloucestershire.
07/22/05 (Sweden) 17 rabbits liberated, slogans painted at farm in Rängedala.
07/24/05 (New Zealand) 20 battery hens rescued from farm in Auckland, placed into loving homes.
07/26/05 (Finland) Hundreds of foxes released from cages at fur farm in Juuka, holes cut in fence, breeding cards removed.
07/27/05 (Russia) Over 200 rats rescued from breeding farm near Moscow; locks destroyed, slogans painted.
08/02/05 (Spain) Five dogs rescued from hunters near Madrid.
08/04/05 (UK) Five baby pheasants rescued from game farm in Wiltshire.
08/05/05 (Sweden) 20 native birds released from Pildammsparken in Malmö.
08/07/05 (Sweden) Six lobsters released from cages in Jönköping, cages destroyed.
08/08/05 (Germany) In the last month, 167 hens rescued from battery farms by the open rescue group "Befreite Tiere."
08/10/05 (Spain) Five parrots released from cages at Loro Parque, a zoo on the island of Tenerife.
08/11/05 (Ireland) Three goats rescued from poor conditions in Limerick City.
08/16/05 (UK) 3,000 partridges due to be sold for shoots released into the wild in Shropshire; breeder reported losses of £75,000.
08/18/05 (Spain) 10 hens liberated from farm in Valencia, eggs destroyed.
08/18/05 (New Zealand) Auckland Animal Action rescued 500 battery hens from egg farm in South Auckland.
08/19/05 (Germany) Two chickens rescued from farm in Heidelberg.
08/24/05 (New Zealand) Activists broke into research farm owned by Massey University and rescued one female dog and her five puppies. Sadly dogs were later located and returned to the University.
08/25/05 (Italy) Lobster liberated from restaurant in Viareggio and returned to the sea.
08/30/05 (Russia) Raccoon rescued from horrible zoo in Sochi.
08/31/05 (UK) Fences cut at farm in Exmoor, 100 wild boar released.
09/02/05 (UK) Fencing removed and 40 deer released from Dartmoor Wildlife Park.
09/06/05 (Finland) Cages opened and breeding cards removed at fox fur farm in Polvijärvi.
09/09/05 (Sweden) 50 rabbits rescued from farm that breeds rabbits for meat in Valdemarsvik.
09/10/05 (New Zealand) Five hens rescued during a demo at a poultry farm in Wellington.
09/11/05 (Brazil) Slogans painted, locks broken off cages, ten monkeys and two birds released from zoo in Porto Alegre.
09/15/05 (Norway) 3000 mink released from cages at farm belonging to leader of fur breeders association.
09/15/05 (Australia) Seven baby chickens rescued from farm in NSW.
09/17/05 (Austria) 3500 ducks liberated from shooting estate north of Vienna.
09/27/05 (Sweden) Djurens Befrielsefront (Swedish ALF) raided animal house belonging to Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and rescued 17 ferrets from vivisection. Slogans painted, documents removed.
09/28/05 (Austria) 30 battery chickens liberated from farm in Lower Austria.

SABOTAGE

June (Netherlands) Hunting platforms destroyed in Veluwezoom and in Vierhouten, three platforms destroyed at Landgoed Welna/Tongeren, and two destroyed at Wapenveld.
June (Austria) Windows etched at two fur shops, meat truck tires slashed, in Vienna.
06/14/05 (Turkey) Circus Monte Carlo's banners destroyed in Yzmit.
06/16/05 (Spain) UPS van covered in paint, tires punctured, in Barcelona.
06/18/05 (Spain) Locks of two DHL trucks glued in Pamplona.
06/18/05 (UK) Executives with HLS collaborator's Forum Biosciences and Atofina UK visited at night; homes and cars painted.
06/18/05 (UK) Tires slashed on cars, slogans painted on homes of executives with Business Post and DHL (HLS collaborators).
06/19/05 (Sweden) Windows etched at two fur shops in Tranås.
06/20/05 (Finland) Barn burnt down at fox farm in Nykarleby.
06/20/05 (Sweden) Fur store owner had his home in Gothenburg painted by activists.
06/21/05 (Ireland) Signs advertising Circus Hoffenburg destroyed in Leixlip.
06/23/05 (USA) UPS (HLS supplier) van hit with paint bombs in Portland.
06/24/05 (USA) Windows broken and gallons of red paint splashed at two offices of Wachovia Securties on Long Island, in protest of bank's support of GlaxoSmithKline (HLS customer).
06/26/05 (UK) Vehicles covered in paint stripper at home of collaborator and shooting partner of John Hall, Newchurch guinea pig farm director.
06/26/05 (Sweden) Windows etched at fur shop in Västertorp.
06/26/05 (Netherlands) University animal research facility in Nijmegen hit with paint bombs; windows were smashed at facility earlier in June.
July (Germany) Six hunting platforms destroyed in Recklinghausen.
07/01/05 (Italy) Friend of Morini employee had her car paint-stripped in S. Ilario D'Enza.
07/01/05 (Netherlands) Hunting platform destroyed at Veluwezoom.
07/04/05 (UK) ALF torched boat house owned by Oxford University; damage estimated at £500,000.
07/06/05 (USA) Slogans painted, paint splashed at Wachovia Securities office in Port Jefferson, New York.
07/06/05 (UK) Two pheasant pens and shooting tower dismantled in Dorset.
07/07/05 (Germany) Two hunting platforms destroyed in Salzburg.
07/07/05 (UK) Tires slashed on 25 refrigerated trucks at a dairy in Nottinghamshire; 115 tires flattened in total!
07/08/05 (Spain) Four cars had locks glued at DHL (HLS supplier) in Logronño.
07/09/05 (UK) Gates D-locked, slogans painted at DHL (HLS supplier) in Nottingham.
07/10/05 (USA) ALF smashed windows, painted slogans at Bachem/Peninsula Labs (HLS supplier) in California.
07/11/05 (Norway) Slogans painted, gallons of red paint dumped at Løken Gård, Norway's only breeder of dogs for vivisection.
07/13/05 (Germany) 20 hunting platforms destroyed in Saarland, and two destroyed in Recklinghausen.
07/14/05 (Sweden) ALF planted incendiary devices in store and office at the Fridtuna Ägg battery farm in Ljungby; buildings completely destroyed.
07/16/05 (France) ALF smashed windows, glued locks, painted slogans at sport fishing store and butcher shop in Paris.
07/22/05 (Sweden) Slogans painted, stinky acid poured, locks sabotaged at two fish shops in Gotheburg.
07/23/05 (Germany) Four hunting platforms destroyed in Issum, four platforms destroyed in Stuttgart.
07/26/05 (Finland) Windows etched, tires slashed, paint-stripped on car of Santen (HLS collaborator) CEO at his home in Tampere.
07/28/05 (Germany) Two fur shops hit with paint bombs in Berlin.
07/28/05 (Sweden) Slogans sprayed at two fur shops in Malmö.
07/30/05 (Israel) Fur shop in Tel Aviv glued and painted.
07/31/05 (Spain) Locks glued at UPS office in Alcalá de Henares.
07/31/05 (Italy) Fur shop paintbombed in Saecolongo.
August (Norway) Three big windows etched at fur shop in Oslo.
August (Norway) Windows broken at two fur shops in Oslo; McDonalds also lost windows.
August (Italy) Windows smashed at three leather shops and fur shop in Genova.
08/01/05 (Spain) Fur shop, butcher shop, store that sells dead chicken and a pet shop had locks glued in Madrid.
08/01/05 (Sweden) Circus posters destroyed in Bastad.
08/02/05 (Sweden) Slogans painted at leather shop in Landskrona.
08/03/05 (Germany) Windows etched at fur shop in Berlin.
08/03/05 (Poland) Jackets sliced at Peek & Cloppenburg (fur retailer) in Warsaw.
08/04/05 (Sweden) DBF painted slogans, glued locks at fur shop Olssons Päls in Gothenburg. Slogans also painted at home of shop's owner. Also in Gothenburg, windows smashed at Christin fur shop and slogans painted at Nicolaus fur shop.
08/04/05 (Sweden) Locks glued, car covered in acid and slogans painted at home of furrier in Halmstad.
08/05/05 (Sweden) Slogans painted and car vandalized at furriers home in Boras; paint bombs thrown at home of another furrier in town.

08/06/05 (Sweden) Windows smashed at fur factory, slogans painted at fur shop, slogans sprayed at museum with fur exhibit, all in Tranås.
08/07/05 (Sweden) Slogans painted at home of chinchilla fur farmer, and at home of pig farmer, in Uppsala.
08/07/05 (Germany) Paint bombs and slogans painted at home of spokesperson for Peek & Cloppenburg.
08/07/05 (Germany) Windows etched at fur shop in Berlin.
08/07/05 (Sweden) Windows smashed, paint thrown inside fur shop in Norrtälje.
08/07/05 (Austria) Seven hunting platforms destroyed in the province of Vorarlberg.
08/08/05 (Sweden) Gate to fur shop in Sodertalje locked with U-lock, slogans painted and windows etched.
08/08/05 (Sweden) Owners of fur shop in Vimmerby had two cars paint-stripped and windows destroyed with etching fluid.
08/09/05 (Sweden) Slogans painted at a fur shop in Grönskära.
08/09/05 (Sweden) Windows smashed, red paint thrown through broken windows, at leather shop in Kalmar.
08/09/05 (Sweden) Slogans painted, paint bombs tossed at fur shops Nordiska Päls and Pälskonfektion in Malmö.
08/09/05 (Sweden) New windows etched at Christina Päls Mode fur shop in Gothenburg, less than one week after activists had smashed them.
08/09/05 (Sweden) Signs advertising Cirkus Roselly destroyed in Halmstad.
08/11/05 (Ireland) Signs advertising Circus Hoffenburg removed in Sligo.
08/11/05 (UK) Two cars paintstrippered, tires slashed at home of Yamanouchi employee.
08/12/05 (Italy) Trash and paint dumped at homes of Morini farm's vet, another employee and owner's sister-in-law.
08/13/05 (Italy) Fur shop paintbombed in Abano.
08/13/05 (UK) ALF visited home of Monock Freight (HLS supplier) director; vehicles paint-strippered.
08/13/05 (UK) Slogans painted near homes of Sankyo and Yamanouchi directors (both HLS clients).
08/14/05 (Ireland) Two cars containing fishing gear damaged.
08/14/05 (Italy) Butcher shops spray-painted in Trapani.
08/14/05 (UK) Shooting enclosure dismantled in Dorset.
08/15/05 (Sweden) "Murderers" painted on fur shop in Gothenburg.
08/15/05 (Sweden) Two fur shops in Gävle had locks glued.
08/16/05 (USA) 10 windows etched at KFC in Seattle.
08/16/05 (Russia) Locks glued, slogans painted at Moscow Society of Hunters and Fishermen.
08/17/05 (Spain) Two UPS stores sabotaged in Valencia.
08/20/05 (UK) Three employee cars paint-strippered, tires popped at White Rose (Wickham Labs associate); action dedicated to Keith Mann.
08/20/05 (UK) Three windows smashed, slogans painted at Cleanaway Ltd. (Wickham Labs collaborator) in Leicestershire.
08/23/05 (USA) ALF cover New York yacht club with paint and slogans, to protest club members: Carr securities executives.
08/23/05 (UK) Six vans and one truck parked at Business Post (HLS supplier) depot sabotaged.
08/24/05 (Switzerland) Roche (HLS client) executive had his car paint-stripped, tires slashed, and slogans painted on garage.
08/24/05 (Spain) Slogans painted and tires slashed on UPS van in Barcelona.
08/25/05 (Sweden) Locks glued at fur store in Gothenburg.
08/25/05 (USA) ALF Pirates for Animal Liberation paint anti-HLS slogans all over yacht club (Carr Securities president is member). (Carr has since dropped HLS.)
08/27/05 (France) Chicken farm sabotaged in Roquefort Corbieres.
08/30/05 (Finland) In one week, 15 windows etched and slogans painted at fur store in Joensuu, windows etched and locks glued at fur shop in Lappeenranta, paint splashed on fur shop in Jyväskylä, and fur store covered in paint in Varkaus.
08/31/05 (Switzerland) Novartis executive had his car paint-strippered.
08/31/05 (Italy) Slogans painted at Upim department store, at fur shop and at the home of a furrier, in Udine.
08/31/05 (UK) Glass door smashed at Land of Leather store in Nottingham.
08/31/05 (Sweden) Fur store painted red in Gothenburg.
September (Italy) Hundreds of nails left at gate to Morini farm (breeders for vivisection).
September (UK) Animal Rights Militia sent warning letters to home addresses of directors of companies that supply HLS. Half of the companies dump HLS soon after.
09/02/05 (Italy) Windows broken at fur shop and leather shop in Seregno, furriers home painted in Desio.
09/04/05 (UK) Car covered in paint stripper, tires slashed, slogans painted at home of Euro DP (HLS supplier) managing director in Wales.
09/04/05 (UK) Car belonging to BioCair (HLS collaborator) executive covered in paint stripper and tires slashed.
09/05/05 (Germany) Fur shop paintbombed in Berlin.
09/07/05 (Spain) Slogans painted at Roche (HLS customer) offices, windows etched at UPS store, in Madrid.
09/07/05 (UK) Bomb left on doorstep of GlaxoSmithKline director in Beaconsfield.
09/07/05 (UK) Two employee cars, three delivery vans and two transport trailers sabotaged at UPS depot near Derby.
09/08/05 (Italy) Locks glued and slogans painted at office of Morini farm's veterinarian.
09/08/05 (Italy) Windows broken, slogans painted at fur retailer Rinascente in Monza.
09/09/05 (USA) Nine windows etched, slogans painted, at KFC in Seattle.
09/12/05 (Austria) Fur shop paintbombed in Vienna.
09/14/05 (Germany) Hunting platform destroyed in Stuttgart.
09/15/05 (Sweden) Circus posters trashed in Göteborg.
09/15/05 (UK) Vehicles and machinery sabotaged, office ransacked, slogans painted at property of Dickerson Ltd. (HLS collaborator).
09/15/05 (Spain) Hunting billboard hit with paintbombs in Cuidad Real.
09/16/05 (USA) Smoke grenades set off at home of L.A. Animal Services director.
09/16/05 (Canada) Thomas Cook travel office ransacked to protest Mauritius monkey trade.
09/17/05 (Spain) Hunting Federation of Castilla la Mancha paintbombed.
09/17/05 (Germany) Hunting platform destroyed in Lausnitzer Heide.
09/18/05 (Spain) UPS van hit in Barcelona; windows broken, tires punctured.
09/19/05 (UK) Concrete block thrown through windows at livestock market in Newark.
09/19/05 (UK) ALF slashed tires and paint-stripped car at home of Chiron director.
09/20/05 (Sweden) Three windows smashed at store selling fur trim in Jönköping.
09/21/05 (Cyberspace) Automated attack flooded Phenomenex (HLS customer) with thousands of phone calls and e-mails.
09/23/05 (UK) Oxford Arson Squad planted incendiary devices in unoccupied house associated with Oxford University.
09/23/05 (Germany) "Fur is murder" painted on P&C in Mainz.
09/23/05 (UK) Six vans parked at Business Post (HLS collaborator) covered in paint, tires slashed, windows shattered.
09/24/05 (France) Locks glued, windows painted, at three fur shops in Paris.
09/25/05 (Italy) Three hunter's cars covered in red paint in Modena provence.
09/25/05 (Germany) Five butcher shops spraypainted in Ulm.
09/25/05 (Germany) Two cars paint-strippered, windows etched at home of James Cloppenburg (P&C director) in Hamburg.
09/26/05 (Germany) Windows and glass doors etched at P&C in Saale.
09/27/05 (Germany) Windows etched at Ansons store (owned by P&C) in Berlin.
09/28/05 (Germany) Thomas Cook store paintbombed in Darmstadt.
09/28/05 (Germany) Windows etched, locks glued and butyric acid sprayed in P&C in Aschaffenburg.
09/29/05 (Italy) Locks glued at Morini farm's vet in Canossa.

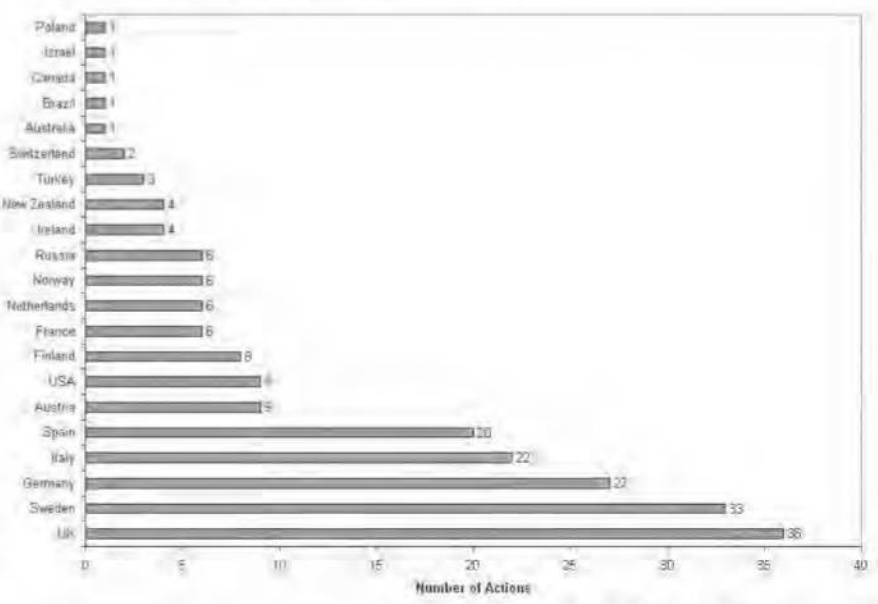
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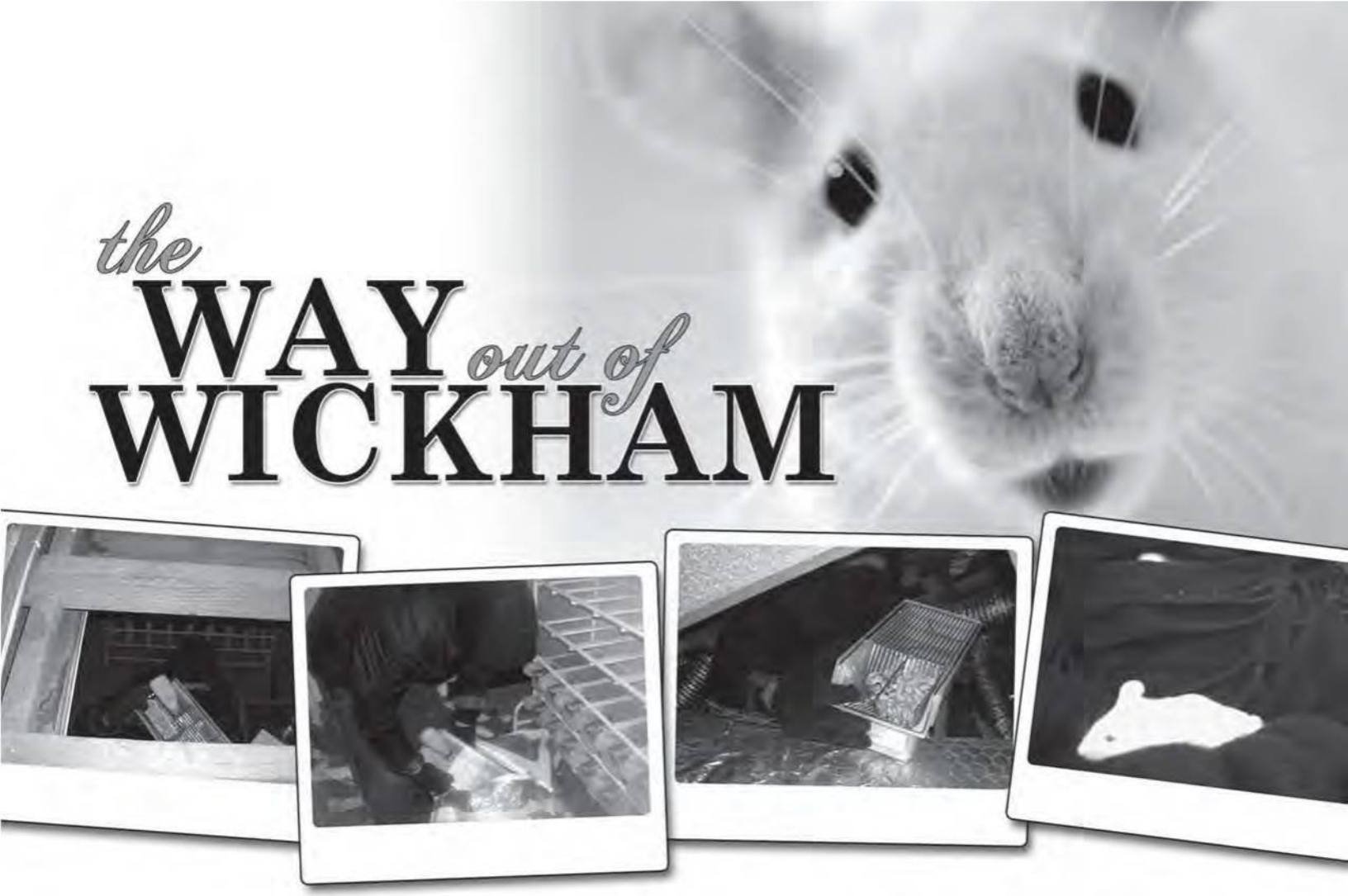
Our team was driving past a field in Wiltshire, when we spotted a rather suspicious building, which we guessed from the ventilation and the smell, housed animals. ...

These lucky birds will be released into a safe area of countryside - miles from any gun-toting thugs, and you can be rest assured we will be back for more.

the NUMBERS June to October



the WAY out of WICKHAM



by **KEITH MANN**

Two

When the UK banned cosmetic testing, they certainly didn't mean ALL cosmetic testing. After all, who in their right minds would want to halt the advancement of Botox? One can never have too many lip implants.

But when the government conveniently overlooked its own law, the ALF jumped into action for some of its own night time justice.

After a night of lifting 700 mice to safety, activists had penetrated one of the most talked about labs in the UK.

How did they do it? After serving 6 months in prison, Keith Mann fills us in.



It's not unusual to hear people assert that this or that centre of abuse is out of the question for a raid or inspection because of the security or notoriety of the place. Wickham Laboratories, in the centre of the twee Hampshire village of the same name, is just such a place. Or rather it was. Made public in the early 80's by daylight raiders investigating the use of stolen pets, night-time raiders who escaped with a pack of beagles, and opportunists grabbing documentary evidence, the contract testing lab management have done themselves no favours running a tail docking practice on site, calling for the stray dogs the RSPCA put to sleep every year to be handed over

instead for testing products on and violently attacking opponents. Of course they have a tendency to attack protestors and lie also about what they do, but that tends to go with the territory. Added to which, the vile little place was infiltrated in the early 90's and exposed for all the gross things always uncovered from the like. Of course there would be more scandal to come if only further access could be gained but word had it in the activist community that wouldn't be likely because it was 'Wickham'.

Aware of them merrily testing all and sundry on animals in large numbers a trusted colleague and I took some time out to hover around the village as the lights went down and see what we could see. It soon became addictive as we realised the reputation was a great deal more fearsome than the security. One thing I've found during these projects is that the more you look the more you see and early potential obstacles can be removed with some lateral thinking, but here, ironically, their use of the LD50 poisoning test was to prove our biggest problem, and in more ways than one their greatest asset.

From early on in our reccies we were having to sneak around avoiding late workers and watch out for them turning up at all hours. On a couple of occasions we managed to clamber, crawl and creep across roof tops of buildings on the site to the Secondary Animal Facility near where there would be intermittent activity throughout the night as staff popped in to massacre mice and other small furry rodents. We got so close we could hear them talking and laughing and could see them just below us through the frosted glass on the inside of the building. Had we been the type of people they say we are it would have been the easiest thing in the world to do these people the kind of serious harm they were doing to others far less capable of defending themselves.

Focusing instead on recovering evidence and rescuing some animals, we set about formulating a plan to break in through the roof as soon after the site was vacated as possible and leave before anyone returned. Figuring out a suitable break in proceedings proved the biggest headache of all as it was so random. We could get two hours or maybe six, and in the middle a police patrol that was nothing really to worry about cos as close as they came to the SAF they only tended to drive up, turn round and go.

It was mid December 2003. We'd worked out the best place to park a vehicle for loading, which meant moving a fence to allow us access to a spot blind of neighbouring houses behind the old Wickham veterinary practice. Between that and the perimeter of the labs was a really helpful area of grassland from where we were able to monitor activity and get over the outer fence without being detected.

Due to the noise we were going to have to make to force a hole in the gable end of the roof by first removing a wooden panel and entering the unknown, it was desirable to have some busy weather on the night to dull some of the sound. It was going to have to be last minute at Wickham and all concerned were prepared to act at a moments notice. The biggest flaw in what was a pretty well thought out plan was the fact that I am a marked man and was under surveillance and had been seen in the area on the day before we decided to go for it. That day Tom, Jerry and I had gone there tooled up to break in (headlights, crowbar, screwdrivers, cutters, saw and so on), with three rucksacks full of large rolled up shopping bags for whatever we might find inside, and with backup vehicles to take the animals to a pre-arranged safe house. The weather was good and we were long over our nerves after three hours of squatting in the grass ready for the mindless morons we had under surveillance to follow our whispers willing them to *"turn the fucking lights out and go home"* so we could get on with a long overdue incursion into their sordid world of poisoning small live things to death.

I often claim when speaking publicly that I don't hate these people just what they do, but I soon felt nothing but hatred for these stupid shaven headed morons as we watched them thoughtlessly go about their disgusting business long into the night.

The gas chamber is a favourite (spelt *with* a u, USA) at Wickham in which survivors of the test substance writhe in agony until they are dead, or there's the option of "cervical dislocation" (break the neck in normal speak) or a lethal injection. Of course there is no option it just depends what the thug with the power to decide decides he wants to do. He really doesn't care just as long as it doesn't take him too long and he can note down the details.

We knew it was going to be as much about good luck that we weren't disturbed as good planning and I for one expected to be a suspect in the following investigation— living only a county away and having a big mouth. But there was no question we were going to at least attempt to have our say. We had a number of escape routes worked out and never expected any of the bullies on the job to take on anyone in a balaclava in a dark eerie walkway. Experience has taught that these people aren't so brave when confronted by someone they can't push around. Small rodents are one thing but masked animal liberators with sharp tools are another.

Anyway, due to the fact the night's assassins were intent on making it a late one we were persuaded to call it off and head home empty handed again. This to me had always seemed like dead time, *again* going home with nothing to show for putting in an effort and taking a risk, but this time is in fact invaluable and as important as the successful outings in achieving our long-term aims. Not everything can have immediate impact. We decided to stash the rucksacks and come back in 24 hours. Police documents would later show I had been seen at my partner's home later that night.

I was out of the house early the following morning and going about my mundane business. We all in our own way filled the next few hours before we had the chance to go for it again.

The following night we met up covertly and made our way to Wickham. Parking away from the lab we plotted up again at our perch and waited. We didn't have to wait long and whispered in frustration only once between us for them to GO home before they did! In a flash we were ballied up, over the fence and sneaking our way as we had many times before along the deserted walkways to the rear of the complex, up the fire escape and onto the roof. Using a ventilation pipe as a platform I unfurled my box of tricks on the roof and like a surgeon set about teasing a hole in a skull. Oh how wood splinters! At that time of night in a tiny rural neighbourhood splintering wood makes one hell of a racket, as the lookouts would remind me. I was trying to keep it quiet but even pulling out nails was unnecessarily noisy. Half an hour later we were into the roof space. With all the piping and wooden supports running through the attic, and the claustrophobic atmosphere, it was no easy feat to move around,

WE MANAGED TO CLAMBER, CRAWL AND CREEP ACROSS ROOFTOPS... WHERE THERE WOULD BE INTERMITTENT ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT... WE GOT SO CLOSE WE COULD HEAR THEM TALKING AND LAUGHING AND COULD SEE THEM JUST BELOW US THROUGH THE FROSTED GLASS ON THE INSIDE OF THE BUILDING.



but we managed to find our way around the network of rooms below by lifting the roof tiles and peering in. Seeing no cameras in the attic and hot with the work I dropped my scarf to aid breathing and slithered my way along. Somehow forgetting where I was, I forgot to replace it as I stuck my face into the first room I got to. What was the first thing I looked for, and at? A security camera! They had those small round black glass cameras in each room and I'd looked straight at one, albeit upside down it would so obviously be me! I spent only a split second figuring out how to talk myself out of that one and got on with the job.

There were mice in ten small rooms, cages in another, extermination equipment and documents. We were intending to put the animals into the carry bags and pass them out of the roof, but due to the limited space instead had to pass them out cage by cage. This made hard work of moving dozens of mice cages (really just small plastic boxes) out through the maze of obstructions. As we expected local police drove by an hour in but there was nothing for them to see as their van and its mass of yellow, blue and white bounced in the light off the side of the unit we were busy in. It wasn't exactly welcoming to have Tom call in that the police were there with us, but as soon as he told us to be aware he told us to get on with it again. With all rooms accessed (in disguise) and cameras disabled as we went we emptied them of over 700 mice and whatever tools, chambers and documents there were. Hung on the outside of the doors were the lab reports we were after, but the security system in the corridor and on doors meant we weren't able to enter it without triggering the alarm, so some were left out of reach. While moving the animals to their getaway vehicle we agreed I would drive the animals away, while Tom and Jerry went back and rushed through the corridor grabbing all documents and the CCTV tape if it could be found before making good their escape. It was midnight when I left the site. We'd been in there for two hours, and it was time to leave anyway, so we may as well be setting alarm bells off. We had mass of animals to place, hopefully some useful documents too.

But as T&J turned the corner before heading up the fire escape next to the Animal House, they became aware they weren't alone. Having just opened the rear gate and entered the compound was the oddball who was on killing duty that morning. Everyone scarpered. He phoned the police on his mobile and they were there in nine minutes. Nine minutes too late. It turned out that Oddball had his girlfriend and baby waiting in the car out back of the lab while he popped in to slaughter some tiny, unhappy, caged female mice.

The National Crime Squad and local detectives were called in and the lab was sealed off for forensic examination for three days. Oddball was questioned and released back into society (where he and his colleagues continue to pose a very serious threat to all life forms). The mice were in the various stages of Botox poisoning tests, their tails marked to indicate dose levels administered. Some were due injections later that day, for many others it was already too late. The documents were a real treat while at the same time simply disgusting. It was compelling reading. You know it happens, and that these people are so callous and unreasonable for words, but to see it in their own words in classified documents brings everything home. There was page after page of dates aside numbers aside the species, its sex and its age. Hundreds upon hundreds of individuals, none older than 6 weeks of age, injected in the stomach with Botulinum Toxin. Up to six hundred in one single day, each a number either poisoned or later punished for surviving it with a brutal execution. There were rats, mice, rabbits and guinea pigs in their thousands, tens of thousand every year.

Two days later, early on the Monday morning, I noticed I was under surveillance again and was later arrested cleaning out my car by a dozen detectives who arrived like a cloud of darkness as I hoovered. Handcuffed, I was led away as the garage had their vacuum bag confiscated. The early story I was told was that my car had been seen parked in the area the night before the raid, but it later emerged there was a lot more to it than that. I was released on bail 10 hours later, all my clothes, footwear, electrical equipment and car confiscated. It was 8 months later, following detailed inquiries which revealed sufficient circumstantial evidence, that we were charged.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
read the 6 page unedited version of Keith's story at:
www.DirectAction.info/wickham

COMMUNIQUE
12.14.03

In the early hours of Sunday morning, the ALF, cut through the razor wire surrounding Wickham Labs in Hampshire, and made their way over the fence. A hole was cut into the roof of the animal unit. The security cameras within the unit were put out of action, and the liberators jumped down amongst the cages. The rooms within the animal unit contained nearly 700 mice, all of which were passed back up through the roof, and spirited to freedom.

Documentation taken from the unit showed that these mice were liberated days before they were due to be experimented on, instead of their last week before Christmas being one of pain, agony and death, for these mice it will be the best yule time ever. All of the animals found within Wickham have been placed in loving homes, where they are free to live out their natural lives free from pain, suffering and neglect.

The documents taken also contained details of hideous experiments for such useless items as Botox, carried out on mice, rats, guinea pigs and rabbits. At the time of the raid the only animals on the premises were mice.

This is not an isolated incident, this is part of the a much wider war for total animal liberation. Until every animal is free we will continue to fight, whether it be Wickham, HLS, Cambridge University or anywhere else. This is a warning to you all!



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