HUNTINGDON DEATH SCIENCES CAMPAIGN



January 1998 (No.2)

Huntingdon Life Sciences who will now only be referred to as Huntingdon Death Sciences are one of the largest contract animal testing companies in the world. They have laboratories at:
Huntingdon Research Centre, Wooley Rd, Alconbury, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 6HS. Tel: 01480 892000.
Eye Research Centre, Occold, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7PX.
Altringham Rd, Wilmslow, Cheshire
Princeton, New Jersey, USA

Latest Updates

Duncans and Reliance Coaches pull-out of HLS..

On January 5th, the Campaign (HDSC) received a call from Mr Robert Duncan of Duncans Coaches who wanted to inform the campaign that after some £15,000 worth of damage was caused to his coaches, (of which HDSC had no prior knowledge of), as of January 9th they would no longer be operating under contract with HDS. Also, could HDSC inform its members (?!) of this, and that another company, Reliance Travel (Alec Head), would also be pulling out. Duncans have transported workers to and from HDS, for around 30 years!

As both companies were the major source of bus transport in and out of the Alconbury Site, this is a major blow for HDS. Press reports state that a third coach company have also withdrawn their contract, but this is as yet unconfirmed. They are Paynes of Paxton. HDSC has since learned from a supplier to HDS that they received a recent memo from the torturers, advising all companies involved with them to use unmarked vehicles or National couriers for future deliveries.
Another ridiculous measure taken!

Onwards & Upwards for Huntingdon Campaign

As many of you will know, the Campaign against Huntingdon Death Sciences has included a Camp outside HRC, Alconbury, Huntingdon since September 1997. Unfortunately, Camp Rena temporarily disbanded on 22nd December. There were a number of reasons for this. Firstly, it was felt that the camp had achieved everything it had set out to achieve. New tactics had been discussed and security was becoming an issue. It was decided that it was time to step up the campaign and to mobilise in ways that proved impossible to do at the camp. It is a temporary measure .....so watch this space for details! The camp at Wilmslow has also disbanded.



The Campaign is now being run from Cambridge, and a campaign office will be in operation in the near future. The campaign can be contacted on the same mobile number as before (0589 026 435), and for the new address, see below.

---New Year Campaign --

HDSC will be busier and more active than ever this year, so your continued support is still as essential as before. Already, 1998 has started with a *crash, bang wallop* for HDS. With the coach firms having pulled out of ferrying lackeys to and from the animal Belsen after 30 years service, HDS's paranoia and desperation is reaching melt-down levels; and external memos are spreading panic amongst their suppliers on a scale that their critics can only dream of creating!

HDSC like to treat everybody as equals...so, anyone connected with HDS are as responsible for the animal's suffering as the vivisectors who directly torture them. The New Year will see actions against: shareholders, suppliers, contractors, clients, employees and HDS directors. Targeting shareholders is the best tactic to hit HDS in the pocket - starting with the Co-op Campaign. Actions will take on many forms including letter-writing campaigns, civil disobedience, background research, inspections, the 'whistle-blowing' campaign, a mobile exhibition, pickets and demos, leafleting and stalls. **Let's keep up the pressure and make 1998 THE year HDS want to forget!**

Latest HDS Share Price:

A miserable 46½p at the time of print

HDSC, PO Box 325, Cambridge CB1 2UF, Tel: 0589 026 435

*** URGENT ***
BOYCOTT CO-OP CAMPAIGN

The recurring consensus that has come to light is to target shareholders, for major results. This will start with the Co-op Insurance Society (CIS) who have a substantial shareholding in HDS.

Several Policy holders have contacted CIS Head Office and have received replies from a Mr R.G. Taylor, Deputy Secretary. The replies are in full support of HDS and vivisection, claiming that, "at the present time" there are, "no real alternatives to such tests" and "we expect that companies such as Huntingdon ... will impose and comply with the highest standards in their work". HDSC urges its supporters to write letters of complaint to Mr Taylor, CIS, Miller Street, Manchester, M60 0AL, or give him a ring on 0161 837 4043. Mr Taylor has been very rude when contacted and has twice been reported to CIS's parent company, the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), who were keen to investigate any complaints about him. CWS Head Office, PO Box 53, New Century Hse, Manchester M60 4ES.Future enquiries can be made to Mr Hurst, CIS Investment Manager, Manchester (Mr Taylor's boss).

Mr Taylor says that CIS's shareholding in HDS will be under review this month (Jan). Please give HDSC your support. With enough pressure on the Co-op, they will have to sell their shares.

Adopt a Co-op

HDSC urges local campaign groups to picket their local CIS office, or the premises of their sister companies (Co-op Bank & supermarkets) or their Parent company (CWS) who portray an ethical image. Pickets and demos can take many forms - use your imagination! Please send reports and press cuttings to the HDSC address. Please boycott Co-op Banks, Supermarkets and Insurance Societies, particularly if you have a Co-op Insurance Policy or bank account. Please write to them and tell them about HDS, that you will boycott all Co-op stores and, if you have a bank a/c or insurance policy, that you will pull out. Remember, boycotts work when people tell companies they are being boycotted and WHY. Adopt a co-op scheme starts 16th Jan 1998. New Co-op leaflets are available from PO Box 339, Wolverhampton WV10 7BZ. (£11 per 1000).

Black Friday - Phone/Fax Blockade

On January 23rd , please contact CWS Head office between 9am - 12pm:
Tel: 0161 834 1212
Fax: 0161 834 4507
Please be polite and courteous.
N.B: Black faxes are effective!

Comment

Can HDS Be Beaten?

The question on many people's minds! The Campaign believes without a doubt, the answer is YES. The fact is that HDS are now in a very shaky position.

To date, 3 undercover investigations at HDS sites have all uncovered serious evidence of brutality and abuse to the animals. Major investors have pulled out. HDS shareprice (46½p) has little changed since the expose (42p), even since getting it's licence back in October. Since the Campaign began, HDS have been losing support left, right and centre through adverse publicity and public awareness. Plans to build a beagle breeding unit at their Occold Site were turned down in December due to public pressure.

Despite, Chief Executioner, Christopher Cliffe's claim that the camp, for example had "no local support", Camp Rena was kept going for 3½ months with donations of food, bedding, equipment, money, caravans etc from local and national support. In the past few months, since Camp Rena was set-up the campaign has cost HDS over £1 million through extra security and eviction costs and the fact that HDS seem prepared to buy up every bit of land in the Huntingdon area.

Such ridiculous measures taken by HDS, time and time again show HDS to be in a state of panic. Those staying at the camp witnessed desperately embarrassing responses and absolute paranoia - NOT the cool response you'd expect from a huge company. HDS is beatable! As long as the pressure is maintained, it will have to close down or radically change its testing methods, namely to safer more reliable, humane non-animal techniques. We, the animal rights movement will win and another nail will be banged into the coffin of the cruel, arcane vivisection industry.



6/12/98 CAMBRIDGE EVE. NEWS

Coach firm cancels lab contract

A COACH firm has cancelled its staff transport contract with Huntingdon Life Sciences after £15,000 damage was caused to vehicles at its depot.

Animal rights activists have been targeting the Life Sciences laboratory at Woolley, near Huntingdon.

Robert Duncan, of Duncan's Coaches, based at Blackstone Road, Huntingdon, said: "There have been four incidents in the last week to 10 days, involving £15,000 of damage to vehicles."

Mr Duncan said damage at the depot had also included cutting of padlocks and writing the word "scab".

Mr Duncan said that the contract involved transporting around 35 staff from the Somersham and St Ives area and his company regretted having to cancel it.

He said that two other coach or minibus companies had also cancelled their contracts.

Protest group slated

29/12 CAMB EVE NEWS

■ **WOOLLEY:** Huntingdon Life Sciences' chief executive Christopher Cliffe has dismissed a bid by animal rights' activists to escalate their campaign against the company in the new year.

Mr Cliffe said: "We have made it absolutely clear that we are not going to yield to intimidation. They are just laughable."

Earlier this month, the company was granted an eviction order against the campaigners, who temporarily abandoned their camp outside the laboratory during the Christmas period.

But they have vowed to extend their action to shareholders, companies supplying HLS, employees, company directors and clients.

Their action will include pickets, protest letters, and a "whistle-blowing" campaign.

The protesters claim that between September and December their efforts have cost HLS over £1 million and caused major staffing problems.

They say many employees are leaving and morale is low.

Les Rudkin, a spokesman for the campaigners, said: "We have forged strong links with other groups campaigning against HLS's horrific activities. We are the voice of the voiceless."

But Mr Cliffe claimed protesters had made threatening phone calls and visits to his own family in the middle of the night and had followed staff home.

He added: "They have no local support. Nor is there any support for them from our clients, staff or suppliers."

3/1/98 CAMB EVE NEWS

NEWS BRIEFS

Animal rights demo at lab

■ **HUNTINGDON:** Police were called to a protest by animal rights campaigners at Huntingdon Life Sciences.

A police spokeswoman said the protest was quickly dealt with, and there was no trouble.

NEWS

Dog-breeding unit bid is turned down

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES 9/12/97

by DAVID GREEN

VILLAGERS and campaigners were united in celebration last night after planners threw out controversial proposals for a dog breeding centre at an animal experiments complex.

Huntingdon Life Sciences, owners of the Occold centre, might ask the Department of the Environment to overturn the decision.

But opponents of the dog breeding centre hailed yesterday's nine to one majority vote by district councillors – against the advice of their own officers – as a major victory.

The decision was greeted by a spontaneous round of applause from more than 30 members of the public – local residents and animal rights campaigners – who listened to the debate.

Ironically, the refusal of planning permission means that beagles are likely to continue to be bred at Occold in conditions which even the management accepts are "not ideal".

HLS was seeking permission to build a large centre, two-thirds the size of a football pitch, which would be used to breed thousands of dogs for experiments at the Occold site and the firm's other two premises, in Cambridgeshire and Cheshire.

About 600 letters of objection had been received to the proposals – the most ever received to any planning application determined by Mid Suffolk District Council.

They came both from local residents, well over 100 from Occold and surrounding villages, and people living in many other parts of Britain who were alerted to the plans by animal welfare groups.

Some letters warned of an escalation of protests at Occold if the proposals were approved – a prospect viewed with alarm by many local residents already dismayed at disruption to their lives caused by the police response to previous demo threats.

A few have been asked to make their properties available as police observation posts while others have been stopped in road checks.

The attack on the dog centre proposals was led at yesterday's meeting of the area planning committee by local councillor Julie Craven, who likened the existing complex to a concentration camp which was both "oppressive and depressing". She poured scorn on an officers report recommending approval be given, suggesting it wrongly interpreted planning policies and contained "significant omissions".

Mrs Craven said it was time to call a halt to development by the firm in the open countryside. "There comes a time when a firm, if it wishes to expand, must consider relocation," she added. The only voice of support for the proposals came from Dr Alec Russell, a retired GP who used the treatment of diabetes in humans as an example of the valuable role played by research using animals.

Harry Standley, chairman of Occold Parish Council, said after the meeting: "I am naturally delighted with the decision and I hope that if there is an appeal there will be a public inquiry."

Diana Marshall, spokeswoman for Ipswich Animal Rights, said: "It was brilliant. We put so much work into this and obviously local people felt very strongly about the issue."

An HLS spokeswoman said Dr Christopher Cliffe, the company's chief executive, was unavailable for comment. No other executive could speak to the Press.

Campaigners and villagers celebrate

CO-OP's £1m SHARES IN ANIMAL LAB

THE EXPRESS 30/12/97

THE parent company of the Co-op bank, which opposes animal experiments, has a massive shareholding in Europe's biggest vivisection lab. Huntingdon Life Sciences uses tens of thousands of animals to tests drugs, pesticides and household products.

The Co-operative Insurance Society owns more than one and a half million shares in the lab worth about £1 million. The CIS is part of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which owns the Co-op Bank and more than 700 shops.

Chris Hirst, investment manager for CIS, said they were reviewing their shareholding in the laboratory. But he added: "If Huntingdon does not do the animal experiments, then somebody else will."

STALKING

BIG ISSUE 8-14 DEC 97

LORDS STOP ANIMAL TESTERS USING ANTI-STALKING LAW

■ BY MAX DALY

A bid by Britain's biggest animal testers to use the new anti-stalking law to hamstring a leading pressure group – even to the extent of preventing campaigners writing letters – has been overturned by law lords.

Huntingdon Life Sciences Ltd (HLS) – which owns the laboratory where two technicians were convicted of cruelty to beagles earlier this year – took out an injunction against the British Union For The Abolition Of Vivisection (BUAV) in October.

Served under the new Protection From Harassment Act 1997 – designed primarily to protect women from stalkers – the injunction aimed to halt BUAV's campaign against the laboratory.

But Mr Justice Eady ruled that the anti-stalking law was not intended to clamp down on people's democratic right to discuss or protest. The High Court judgement is a blow to firms which expected the new Act to restrict the powers of hundreds of legitimate pressure groups.

"This would have been a complete misuse of the Act," said BUAV executive director Kathy Roddy. "It would have prevented us from writing to the laboratory, writing about it, or talking to employees. We condemn illegal protest and our campaign has

BIG ISSUE 1-7 DEC 97

ANIMAL RIGHTS

CO-OP HAS SHARES IN ANIMAL TESTING LAB

■ EXCLUSIVE BY JANE CASSIDY

The insurance wing of the Co-op has shares in an animal-testing laboratory where two technicians were convicted of cruelty to beagles earlier this year, *The Big Issue* can reveal.

The Co-op, which sells its banking services and supermarkets to potential customers as ethically sound businesses, is set to be targeted nationally by animal rights campaigners calling for a company boycott until the shares are sold.

The Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), which also owns Co-op banks and some Co-op supermarkets, CIS told *The Big Issue* it did not discuss individual investments. But a spokesman confirmed CIS has a shareholding in one company which has been found acting inhumanely. The company in question carries out animal testing for the benefit of human health, not for cosmetic purposes, he said, adding that the shareholding was now under review.

Latest available records held at Companies House show that CIS has 1,443,753 shares in Huntingdon Life Sciences (HSL) Group plc, one of the UK's largest animal-testing companies. This represents a shareholding stake of around one per cent in the company, worth around £600,000.

Lab technicians Robert Waters and Andrew Mash made legal history in September by becoming the first in their profession to be found guilty of cruelty to animals. The pair were caught on video punching and shaking beagles at the Huntingdon Life Sciences lab in Cambridgeshire. They admitted charges of "cruelly terrifying dogs" and were ordered to do 60 hours' community service and pay £240 court costs.

The allegations were bought after the lab workers were secretly filmed for a Channel 4 documentary. The lab had its licence suspended, but the Home Office renewed it after HLS met 16 "stringent conditions".

A spokesman for CIS said the insurance company was an entirely different organisation from the bank and supermarket businesses, and did not have an ethical policy, though it did have an ethical fund and an environmental fund operating to "specific criteria".

Parent company CWS reiterated that CIS operated independently and was responsible for taking its own investment decisions.

"CWS has an active policy in which we ensure Co-op brand products are not tested on animals, but we have never opposed animal testing in cases where it is aimed at benefiting human health," he said.

Neil James, spokesman for a coalition of animal rights groups organising protests against the Co-op and the laboratory, said: "We don't care if they've only got one share in this company, one share is too many."

Animal rights group 'to step up protest'

21/12/97 CEN

■ **WOOLLEY:** Animal rights activists aim to step up their campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences in the new year.

Their action will target shareholders, companies supplying HLS, employees, company directors and clients.

Calling themselves the Huntingdon Death Sciences Campaign, they told the *News* that anyone connected with HLS could become a target.

Their action will include a letter-writing campaign, civil disobedience, background research, inspections, a "whistle-blowing" campaign, picketing and demonstrations, a mobile exhibition, leafleting and stalls.

Camp Rena, the protest camp set up outside the laboratory, has temporarily disbanded for the Christmas period.

But protesters claim that between September and December their efforts have cost HLS more than £1 million and major staffing problems. They say many employees are leaving and morale is low.

They also claim to have raised public awareness of what goes on at the laboratory and to have received information from "whistle-blowers".

Les Rudkin, a spokesman for the campaigners, said: "Despite HLS's use of Big Brother tactics, and attempting to buy up any land in the local area to prevent peaceful protest and silent criticism, we have become stronger.

"We have forged strong links with other groups campaigning against HLS's horrific activities. We are the voice of the voiceless."

Huntingdon Life Sciences was unavailable for comment.

A Few Facts

Christopher Cliffe, Chief Executive of HDS states in a December press statement that protesters are "laughable". Let's just see now:

*7th Sept 97	Camp Rena (1) begins on HLS doorstep
Mid Sept	**HDS bought a near-by piece of land for £19000**
*By 21st Sept	4 protesters had staged roof-top protests
*30th Sept	Eviction of Camp Rena & the start of Camp Rena 2

Cost of Eviction: £200,000

*8th Dec	Permission to build beagle breeding unit at HLS Occold, turned down
*Dec 16th	Eviction of Camp Rena 2 Camp Rena 3, already underway

Cost: £20,000 to buy the field
Unknown amount for eviction costs

*Jan	Duncans announce withdrawal of contract

During the camp, unknown costs for security measures: extra security staff employed, layers & layers of razor wire, new video cameras, new fences, high levels of stress to staff, employees leaving/low morale.

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Court News

On Friday 2nd January 1998, the three protesters who staged a roof-top protest at HDS on September 21st 97 were acquitted. HDS accused them of £1800 worth of damage to the roof and public order offences but the case was thrown out!

Ever had one of those years (HDS)?

Congratulations to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), who recently had their HDS-imposed gagging order lifted. HDS, who dropped the order due to mounting legal fees, were also ordered to pay $2 million costs.

CIS Demo's

Since January, regular demo's have started at CIS headquarters in Manchester with a positive response from most employees.

HLS AGM

HLS have not as yet given any details as to when their AGM is. Last year's AGM was held in Cambridge in April, so keep your diaries free as fun and games are planned for the day.

Phone tree/mailing List

If you are interested in attending demo's (some maybe short notice), supporting the campaign, ie. Financially/with day to day tasks etc, please ring or write to us with details. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please include a 2nd class stamp to help with postage.

** HDSC Diary Dates **

Fri 16th Jan	**Adopt a Co-op starts . CIS office demo**, 82-88 Hills Rd, Cambridge. Meeting at 12.45pm at the railway station.
Mon 19th Jan	**Demo at HRC gates, Alconbury.** Start of local weekly demos. Ring the mobile for details.
Fri 23rd Jan	**Black Friday. Telephone/Fax blockade of CWS.**
Sat 28thFeb	**National runaround day at Occold**. Meet at Diss train station, 12.00pm
Thu 26th Mar	**Anniversary day of action** (C4 showing of Under-cover programme 'It's a dog's life'). Meet 12.00pm at HRC gates.
April?	**AGM demo**

Information

It would help us a great deal if anyone who has/finds out information about HDS, whether it's press cuttings, court appearances, top-secret information (?), demo reports, ideas, any information gathering etc, would send us them/let us know so that as a campaign we can work together, keep on top of things and act accordingly.

Speakers

HDSC would like to offer the service of speakers for local group meetings. Please contact the campaign if interested.

*** STOP PRESS ***

It seems that **Andrew Mash** and **Robert Waters,** the 2 HDS technicians that were convicted of abusing beagles, are having trouble finding somewhere to carry out their community service! Cambridge AR group were informed that the local Oxfam have recently been offered their services. They declined, what a shame, eh!!

Appeal

We need money! Donations are needed to set-up the office: eg buy office equipment, printing & postage costs, phone bills, petrol costs. If anyone can help with acquiring a second hand fax machine, answer machine photocopier, computer, office furniture please contact us.

We have recently set-up our own bank account, and cheques can be made payable to: HDSC.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the camp and kept it going. Please keep up the support for the campaign.