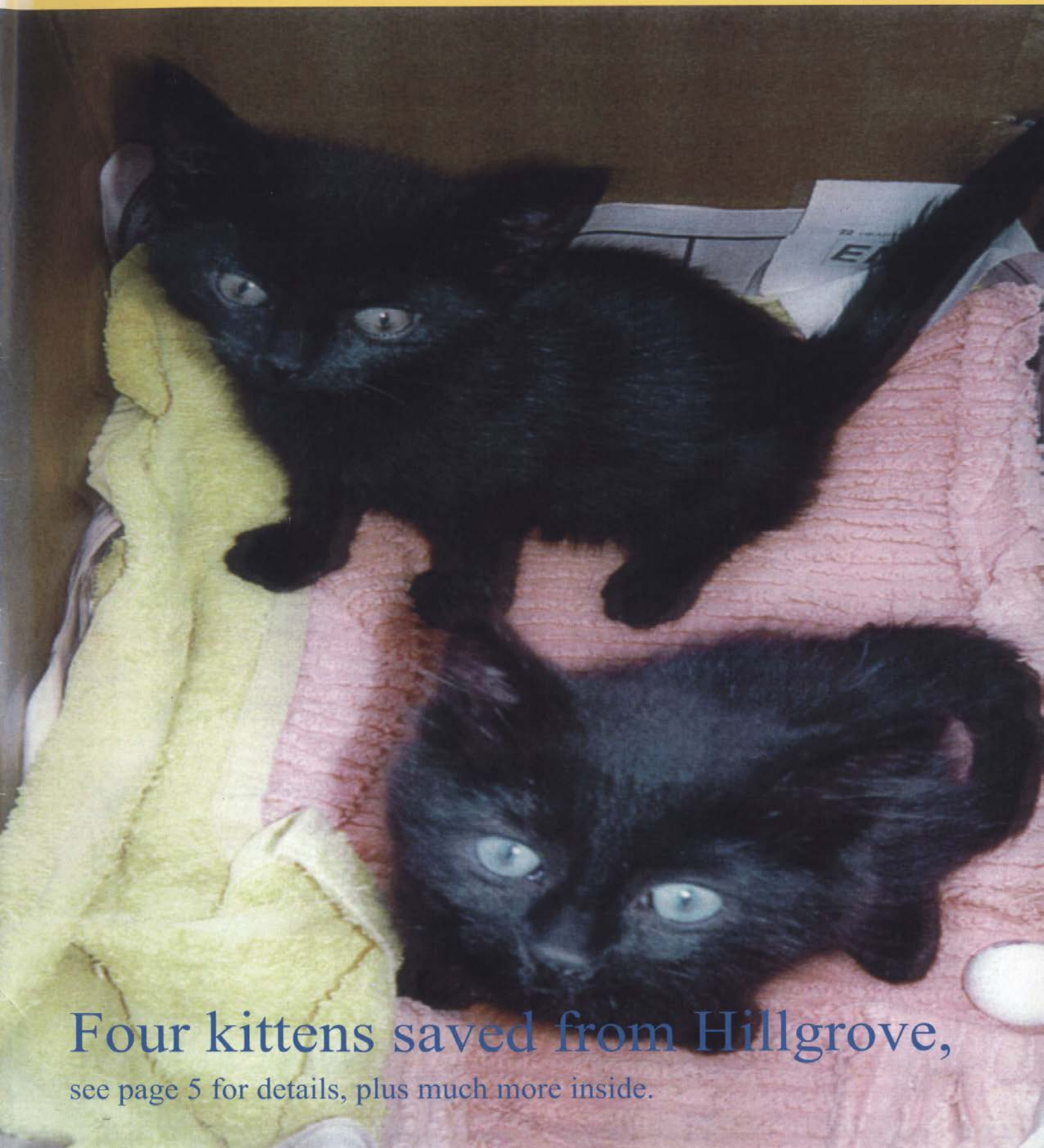
The Hillgrove Campaign

Newsletter No. 6

0121 632 6460

SAVE THE HILLGROVE CATS, BOX CB, 111 MAGDALEN RD, OXFORD. OX4 1RQ



Four kittens saved from Hillgrove,

see page 5 for details, plus much more inside.



SORTED



BY PENMAN AND ALFORD

What's going on at Mr Brown's cat farm?

When the truth began to seep out of Hillgrove Farm the owner Christopher Brown has become more and more agitated and irrational. When he realised exactly the explosive content of the files leaked from Hillgrove he swung like a pendulum, calm one minute then accusing the campaign of lying and stealing documents the next. The campaign has always said that Mr. Brown has told bare faced lies and now we can prove it once and for all.

As you will read on the following pages it all paints a very grim picture of life inside Hillgrove Farm. All the documents used by the Daily Mirror were Hillgrove's own records and they run to some forty-five pages which is still only a small glimpse of the full records but enough for us to see how the cats suffer inside Hillgrove.

DISTURBING news reaches us about the work of Hillgrove Cat Farm.

For many years, the Oxfordshire business has bred kittens for use in medical research.

Proprietor Chris Brown has said often that the hundreds of kittens he sells are used mainly for research into cat vaccines. He argues that by sacrificing his kittens, thousands more are saved.

This week he also told *Sorted* that the 1,000 cats and kittens he breeds are never sold under the age of eight weeks.

But now breeding documents, leaked to *Sorted* show that cats are being sold from just 13 days old to some laboratories that do *not* experiment with cat vaccines.

Worse, the record sheets also show a high number of kitten deaths at the farm.

Many were born deformed and were destroyed. Others are listed as "eaten", "disappeared" or "squashed". One in 10 cats die or are killed by their mother before they can be reared and sold.

Speaking earlier this year, Mr Brown said 80 per cent of the cats he sold were used to develop animal vaccines. He added: "Cats are not used now as a laboratory animal except for veterinary research."

But the news that Mr Brown has also sold kittens to organisations that do not carry out cat vaccine experiments has angered animal rights groups.

Horrific

One said last night: "We want Hillgrove closed down. It is a horrific but highly profitable business that has nothing at all to do with animal welfare."

One high-profile university is named as receiving cats but *Sorted* has confirmed that this university does not carry out cat vaccine experiments.

The breeding records show that a 90g kitten was sent to the university on January 10, 1994 when he was five weeks old.

The *Journal Of Neuroscience* shows in the same period that a professor from the university used kittens aged between two and 143 days old in brain experiments.

They were blinded in one eye, anaesthetised and put in a head frame while their brain was injected with dye. They were then destroyed and the brain dissected.

The cats were obtained from a pathogen-free (germ-free) breeding colony — Hillgrove Farm is the only pathogen-free farm in the UK.

When told that *Sorted* had copies of his breeding documents, Mr Brown said: "If they state that cats were sold younger than eight weeks, they cannot be correct."

Asked if he had ever sold kittens to the professor at the central England university, Mr Brown said: "They breed their own cats. I have not sold to this man — certainly not directly.

"You are right to say that Hillgrove is the only pathogen-free breeding colony in Britain." He dismissed the deaths and cat cannibalism by saying: "This is purely mother nature working. If a kitten is born deformed, then instinct often takes over and the mother will kill it."

But Maureen Hutchinson, veterinary adviser for the Cat Action Trust said: "It is not normal for kittens to be eaten by their mother.

Stress

"This is stress-related. Life as a breeding cat in such sterile conditions could make a cat quite psychotic."

Top animal behaviourist Dr Roger Mugford told *Sorted*: "These records show some cats are allowed to breed twice a year. This is unnatural and can produce problems."

Mr Brown denies the kittens are ill-treated. He recently said: "The cats here are in first-class condition." Last night a spokesman for the Save The Hillgrove Cats campaign said: "These records confirm that cats are being sold very young and to laboratories which do not experiment for animal vaccines.

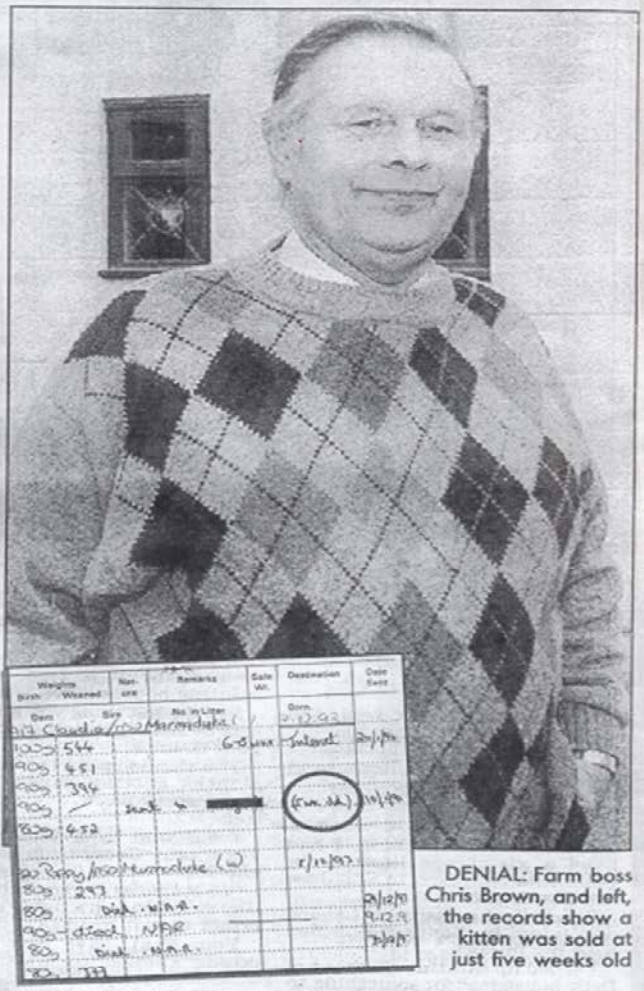
"The stress they are under must be incredible for them to eat their own kittens. Sadly, those who survive await an almost worse fate."

Cat vivisection is an emotive subject and not one that *Sorted* can say is right or wrong.

The argument here is more to do with the management of the farm, the alarming numbers of kitten deaths and the difference between the figures quoted by Mr Brown and the evidence we have.

Mr Brown is a licensed breeder governed by the Home Office. We hope on their next visit, inspectors will look closely at the conditions of both pens and cats.

In the meantime, *Sorted* will be handing over the breeding record sheets to their officers and the RSPCA.



DENIAL: Farm boss Chris Brown, and left, the records show a kitten was sold at just five weeks old

BROWN "SORTED" BY DAILY MIRROR.

When 45 pages of Brown's breeding records were leaked to us at the campaign we approached Dawn Alford of the Daily Mirror and she jumped at the chance of exposing Brown's evil trade and showing him up to be a liar.

The records themselves are a real eye opener and make horrific reading (copies are available to anyone who asks). They, once and for all, prove that everything we've said all along has been the truth, and Brown has been trying to fool the public and the press with a string of lies as he desperately tries to cover up the horrific truth.

Firstly we'll deal with Margaret (the ginger-breeding queen who Kevin Hickey tried to save and ended up in prison for 12 months), who is now sadly dead – killed by Brown earlier this year. If we look at her ancestry record four of her descendants are labelled "Porton!".

." ANCESTRY RECORD "

Ear Tattoo: BD Name : MARGARET (Peggy) ♀ BRISTOL NAME

Sex: ♀ Colour/Markings: Ginger

Born: 25.2.1989 Litter Size:

Supplied ~~sex~~ by: Bristol 12.2.1990

♂ No. PERKINS (C.D)	♂ PORTON
	♀ PORTON
♀ No. PORTIA (C.D)	♂ PORTON
	♀ PORTON

Did these cats come from Porton Down? Porton Down is the place warfare experiments are carried out on animals by the army. Many species of animals are burned, poisoned, scalded, mutilated shot and killed at this "establishment". It could be some kind of sick joke. C.D. = Caesarean Derived which is the standard barbaric practice of creating Specific Pathogen Free animals by breaking the mothers neck as she is about to give birth, removing the entire uterus and dipping it in a solution that kills viruses and bacteria and then attempting to foster the kittens with a 'clean mother' (the kittens that survive this process can then go on to produce SPF kittens "naturally")

Next we see at the bottom of each page of the breeding records (which are filled in by not the brightest of staff) a key to the nature of the cats at Hillgrove Farm. They range from P = Purrs through to B = Bad. Not once in the column referring to the nature of the cats, is it filled in.

Colour :	A = Abyssinian L = Little	B = Black LH = Longhaired	BR = Brown P = Patch	D = Dark T = Tabby	F = Fleck W = White	G = Grey
Nature :	P = Purrs	V.G. = Very Good	G = Good	A = Average	N = Nervous	B = Bad

If we look at Pebbles for instance we see the dates that she gives birth:

She was born 12th Jan '89 at Hillgrove Farm and was one of 7 kittens. She was picked out to be a breeding machine.

Her first recorded litter was 7th September '90 she then went on to give birth on the following dates;

21st February '91 20th July '91 4th February '92 5th June'92
14th November '92 2nd April '93 28th August '93 2nd March '93
6th February '95 Pebbles ate one of her kittens 9th August '95 27th September '96
1st March '97

If she is still alive she must be nearing exhaustion and despair. When a queen comes to the end of her

breeding life she will be killed or sent for experiments.

Both Margaret and Zanny's records tell the same story. Another thing these cats have in common is that they were all rescued in January 1997 but later returned to Hillgrove Farm by Thames Valley Police. Their brief taste of freedom callously ended.

We were obviously extremely interested in the destination column. As you can see this section is hardly ever filled in and when it is it gives very brief details. Why so vague? Could it be Brown is wary of people finding out that most of his cats do not go for vaccine research? All together we see Bristol, Liverpool University, France, Belgium, Lyon-France, Intervet, Oxford and Glasgow.

			Dam	Sire	No. in Litter		Born.	
			79% Bolleyfly x 69% Gladys		1.61		5.12.90.	
C7	♂	B/W	150		BADLY TANGLED			
C8	♂	W/B	150		LITTER			
C9	♀	W/B	150		Damaged legs.			
/	♀	B/W	90		Damaged legs + abdomen.			14.12.7
C00	♀	B/W	100		Damaged legs			
/	♀	W/LB	150		3 legs		PD.	1.2.91

We've done our research and we know there is no place in Oxford or Oxfordshire that uses cats for experiments other than Oxford University. Oxford University does not do cat vaccine research but they do have a physiology dept. where Professor Colin Blakemore has maimed, killed and blinded countless kittens and cats in pointless experiments. Oxford University do not have their own breeding colony. Professor Blakemore uses kittens from a SPF breeding colony and there is only one that sells SPF cats and kittens – Hillgrove Farm.

After we saw the records we approached Glasgow University and they were forced to admit that they are supplied by Hillgrove Farm.

KITTENS DEATHS

The records also show an appalling and unnaturally high number of kitten deaths. On page 101, out of 19 kittens born 9 died or were eaten!

Maureen Hutchinson, Veterinary adviser for 'Cat Action Trust' says "It is not normal for kittens to be eaten by their mother. This is stress related. Life as a breeding cat in such sterile conditons could make a cat quite psychotic". We have spoken to many other vets and animal behaviourists who agree.

	1st Litter		646 Tabetha / Fis Randolph (3)			15.11.92	
	♂	G/W	100g	– Eaten			16.11.9
	♀	DT/W	90g	– Bitten	P.D.		15.11.9
	♀	DT/W	70g	– Bitten	died		15.11.9

Brown stated on oath in Oxford Crown Court that he sold kittens over 8 weeks and they were tattooed at 8 weeks. The records show both these statements to be untrue for instance kittens were tattooed 030, 031 and 032

SAVED FROM HELL

On the 28th May four 6 week old kittens were rescued from Hillgrove Farm. The details are sketchy but it appears that they were in a carrying box in a vehicle ready for dispatch to a lab during the day when an intrepid activist(s) entered Hillgrove Farm and undetected rescued them from certain torture then death.



BARBARIC: Kittens are used in medical experiments

LAB HORRORS

CONGRATULATIONS to the *Sorted* team on exposing the outrageous practices at Hillgrove Cat Farm (*The Mirror*, June 2). All animal experiments are medically and morally bankrupt. Cats and other animals are not reliable "models" for human diseases. Nor are the vaccines tested on them.

Dr Tony Page, London SE11

● I WAS sickened by the story of Chris Brown's cat farm. My work has taken me into animal laboratories and I have seen cats with deliberately damaged spines and brains. This is not veterinary research and the results are of no value to humans.

Name and address supplied

Quite how anyone could box kittens up like those knowing full well the hideous deaths they would suffer I will never be able to understand for as long as I live. The kittens are well and looking forward to a life free from pain, they are the lucky ones who will stretch by an open fireside. We will never walk away from the cats still inside Hillgrove. Good has and will triumph over evil.

Continued from previous page.

Tattoo No.	Sex ♂/♀	Colour	Weights Birth	Weaned	Nature	Remarks	Sale Wt.	Destination	Date Sent
			Dam	Sire		No. in Litter		Born.	
			A17 Claudia/	HSO		Marmaduke ( )		7.12.93	
030	♂	DT/W	100g	544		6-8 wks		Intervet	20/1/94
031	♂	ST/W	90g	451					
032	♀	DT	90g	394					

and sold to Intervet at 6-8 weeks old.

A five week old kitten was untattooed (a direct contravention of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which states that all laboratory animals must be tattooed) and sent to Oxford on 10.1.94..

/	♀	ST	90g	/		sent to oxford		(5 wk old)	10/1/94

Worst of all, three 13 day old kittens were sent with their mother to an unknown (to us) destination.

–	♂	GT	150g			Sent with			25-6 92
–	♂	DT	150g			mother			25.6 92
–	♀	GT	150g			2 weeks old.			25.6.92

These records show the direct opposite of what Brown has been spouting out to the press everytime he's forced to comment. For example that the cats "only go for cat vaccine research" "kittens are never sold under 8 weeks" "my cats are the best cared for in the world". When you look through the records Mr. Brown's comments shout out at you and they say one thing and one thing only that Mr. Brown is a BARE FACED LIAR.

ACTION

Write to fax or phone Christopher Brown. Tel: 01993 703120 Fax: 01993 700528 - Hillgrove Farm, Dry Lane, Witney, Oxon.. Put questions to him about his breeding records and what you have read in the Daily Mirror and ask him to comment and justify himself, (be polite).

Cats (S.P.F.)

Bred to "Purrfection" for over 25 years.

Founded in 1970 with four mixed strains of domestic Cats from caesarian derived stock. Maintained in three independent Full Barrier Colonies.

Status: Accredited SPF. Category AAA by MRC. Laboratory Animal Centre Scheme 1974 - 1983. Accredited 'Barrier' bred under Laboratory Animal Breeders Accreditation Scheme from 1983. Home Office Designated Breeder and Supplier

Available by weight or age as required

Enquiries: Mr. C. Brown,

Hill Grove Family Farm Ltd

Minster Lovell, Oxford OX8 5NA.
Telephone: Witney 01993 703120
Fax: Witney 01993 700528



The Hillgrove advert above was taken from the Laboratory Animals Buyers Guide 1996. Match the sick advert with the reality in the records.

ALL NIGHT VIGILS

Sat 2nd May

35-40 people gathered in good spirits around the fire by the side of Dry Lane in another show of determination to close Hillgrove. All was quiet until about 2 am when whistles and shouting was heard from around the farm and then two people appeared near the farmhouse with giant fog horns which could probably have been heard from a few miles away!! There were 3 arrests for noise making but this certainly didn't deter the elusive activists with the fog horns which were still to be heard at 6 am, by this time a megaphone had joined in the festivities. All in all a good night which no doubt impressed upon Hillgrove Farm our determination to close them down!

Sat 16th May

A clear Saturday night saw twenty hardy souls gathered around Hillgrove Farm. The attitude was positive with several people stating that they would come on vigils for the next ten years if that's what it took to close this evil hell hole. It was soon to be a noisy and lively vigil with the fog-horns making themselves heard again until the morning. No arrests were made and most activists stayed until 7 am tp welcome the 2 workers in. Quite how two workers can "care" for over 1,000 cats over a 4 hour shift has yet to be explained by the Home Office even though written questions on that subject have been sent to them several times without reply. Its doesn't need Einstein to calculate that it works out at under 30 seconds per cat! How this squares up with Brown's laughable claim that his are "the best cared for cats in the world" has also still to be explained.

Vigils are very effective so come on! Join us! Ring first to let us know you're coming. The next vigil is on sat 27th June 10pm.

WOULD YOU STAY AT HILLGROVE FARM?

A recent look in W.H. Smiths and it was noted that the only guide in the two branches visited to still have Hillgrove Farm listed for accommodation was 'stay on a farm'. The advert is reprinted below. A phonecall was quickly made to the authors of 'Stay on a farm' who are the Farm Holiday Bureau based at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire. They were asked did they realise exactly who Hillgrove Farm were? To which they replied "no", but they then went on to say they didn't see what was wrong with the advert as it didn't claim that they weren't breeding cats for vivisection!! The whole mood of the conversation altered when they were informed that they had been reported to the Advertising Standards Authority for publishing a misleading advert on the following points:

(1) Hillgrove is described as a "mixed, family run 300 acre working farm" nowhere does it mention that at the back of the farm there are over 1,000 cats waiting to be sold to labs.

(2) Nowhere does it mention huge fences around the farm backed up with closed circuit TV

(3) Nowhere does it mention daily demos at the end of the drive, all night vigils and massive national demos would have to be endured by guests

(4) The advert mentions a "friendly atmosphere" but does not bother to mention permanent security guards with snarling alsations plus police cars flying in and out all the time.

(5) It mentions Hillgrove as AA listed which as we all know they have been withdrawn from all AA guides.

The Farm Holiday Bureau suddenly became guarded and within 48 hrs a letter was received from them stating that the matter was to be put before the committees. The AA and the Caravan Club both withdrew Hillgrove because of public pressure. Here's how you can help..

ACTION

Please write to the Farm Holiday Bureau (UK) Ltd, National Agriculture Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ or ring them on 141 01203 696909 and politely ask them to remove such a misleading and inaccurate advert.

Write to the Advertising Standards Authority, 2-16 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN asking them to take action against the advert for Hillgrove as it clearly misleads people.

News reaches us of heartless holiday makers who ring up and book in at Hillgrove as guests yet don't turn up.

8 **Hill Grove Farm**, Crawley Road, Minster Lovell, Oxfordshire OX8 5NA



Mrs Katharine Brown
☎ 01993 703120
Fax 01993 700528
BB From £19–£21
Sleeps 4
Highly Commended

Hill Grove is a mixed, family-run 300-acre working farm situated in an attractive rural setting overlooking the Windrush Valley. Ideally positioned for driving to Oxford, Blenheim Palace, Witney (Farm Museum) and Burford (renowned as the Gateway to the Cotswolds and for its splendid Wildlife Park). New golf course 1 mile. Hearty breakfasts, friendly atmosphere. Children welcome. 1 double/private shower, 1 twin/double en suite. AA listed. Open all year (closed Christmas).

A MESSAGE TO BROWN

"What do you call that?" Asked the policeman who was taking my details.

"An elbow-crutch," I said, still reeling from the fact that I'd been searched and filmed.

As you probably guess, this was my first ever Hillgrove protest! But it won't be my last – though for someone who often finds walking around a supermarket impossible, it was quite a feat just being there at all, and I needed a lot of help from fellow protesters (thanks, gang!).

You see, I have MS, and I've had it for twenty-seven years- the exact length of time Mr. Brown has been breeding cats for vivisection. Since the early eighties, when MS forced me to abandon my career. I've been rescuing cats: I run a cat welfare information service, and have a small sanctuary for cats with disabilities. So the Hillgrove Campaign has a very special significance for me.

Because, when I first became ill, I was assured that a cure was just around the corner. It wasn't, and it still isn't – in spite of the fact that thousands of animals have died in useless experiments to find one. And I don't doubt for one moment that Hillgrove Farm cats were among those who died.

I want to see Hillgrove Farm closed and I want to see an end to animal experiments. I don't want to get better at the cost of animals' lives. I'd much prefer to continue getting by with my trusty elbow-crutch.

MARILYN HAMER-JONES – "CATSAFE", PO BOX 9 PONTYPRIDD MID-GLAMORGAN CF37 4YB.

MAY 31ST DEMO

The day of the latest national demo saw a huge police operation costing approx. £100,000 involving numerous roadblocks, a constant helicopter presence and between 300-400 police from several different forces all for one evil cat breeding business.

Massive interest before the demo promised a huge turnout and we were not disappointed with at least 2,000 people in attendance the police laughably put the number at 300.

FACT, we printed and gave out 2,000 legal advice leaflets that's how we know there were at least 2,000 people there.

In the preceding 4 weeks before the demo the campaign office dealt with over 800 phone call enquiries that were all most welcome. The most positive part of the day were the numbers showing that the demos are getting bigger and bigger and will not go away. There were 39 arrests and lessons will be learnt. For many people this was their first demo and to be so close to such a major centre of animal abuse only to see it surrounded by Thames Valley Police's Private Security most have driven home the pure obscenity of it all.

These demos shake Hillgrove to the core because to have 2,000 – 3,000 people there makes them realise the depth of anger and determination to close cruel Hillgrove Farm.



'Protect life' was the Rev James Thompson's plea to protesters

'Take stand to stop cruelty' says vicar

● Continued from Page 1

The Rev Thompson said: "I feel the church, which claims to be the moral mouthpiece of the nation, should be taking a stand against cruelty.

"This is comparable to what the slave trade was a couple of hundred years ago. It's our task as Christians to protect life."

Mr Thompson, a former senior hospital chaplain in Aberdeen, said he thought most protesters were peaceful but said there could be a 'rent-a-mob' element.

Another protester, Miss Sally Higgs, 33, of Faringdon, said: "I've got ME and struggling up here absolutely kills me, but it's worth it. I think it's awful that this trade has carried on with all the public opinion that's against it." Mr Tim Davidson, an assistant chief constable of Thames Valley Police, said: "A substantial police presence and the early arrests of alleged offenders stopped further violent scenes as were evident at the last demonstration on April 18. There were no injuries."

So far the cost of protecting Hillgrove Farm has cost more than £600,000. Police spokesman Richard Goodfellow said the force would continue to pay for the protection of the farm.

Protest organiser Greg Jennings, of Save the Hillgrove Cats campaign, said: "Animals are being produced here for cruel and unnecessary experiments. We will be coming back until we have seen Hillgrove Farm closed."

The farm was set up 30 years ago to breed cats for medical research. Farm owner Mr Christopher Brown said: "These people want to stop animal experiments, yet they behave like a mob.

"They should make reasoned arguments rather than organise demonstrations at huge public cost.

"Our animals are kept in A1 condition — the protesters have no reason to be here."

● A WOMAN who chained herself to a car steering wheel in an attempt to block the entrance to the cattery at Hillgrove Farm last week was arrested, along with two men. Police cut through the steering wheel to release the woman.

● Opinion: Page 2

CLOSE DOWN FARMER BROWN

Farmer Brown breeds cats
for torture
We are gonna close him
down
We are gonna hold the
biggest demos
and drive this abuser out of
town
no more suffering no more
pain
Brown will never abuse
again
and when he goes to sleep
at night
let him see the awful sight
let him hear the pain full
cry
that the millions of cats he's
bred to die.

By *Ellie-Jo Latham*
Aged ten.

Farmer denies cats 'forced to breed'

FARMER Chris Brown has defended his methods after documents said to be breeding records from his controversial cat farm were leaked.

The documents appeared to show that cats from Hillgrove Farm were being sold from just 13 days old.

They also revealed a high number of kitten deaths at the farm. The documents show that one in 10 cats die or are killed by their mother before they can be reared and sold.

One cat recorded on the documents was allowed to give birth twice a year.

The farm in Minster Lovell has been the scene of regular demonstrations by animal rights protesters.

Mr Brown said no papers from the farm had been released and they had therefore been taken without his consent.

He said the majority of kittens were sold at two or three months old but different ages might be required 'occasionally' and those under six weeks had foster mothers. He denied that the cats were forced into a breeding cycle. "I can't make animals breed," he said. "We let them live together naturally."

Mr Brown accused the Save the Hillgrove Cats campaigners of being 'anarchists'.

He said: "I'm running a legitimate business monitored by the Home Office for the benefit of humans and animals."

He added that the loss rate of kittens was 10 per cent and that was less than the loss rate for humans.

Heather James, of Save the Hillgrove Cats, said: "All vets we have spoken to, and the animal behaviourist Roger Mugford, agree that it is completely abnormal for cats to eat their kittens and they had not heard of it before." She said it was unnatural for cats to give birth every five months.

Vet Mrs Maureen Hutchison, an officer of the Cat Action Trust, said cats shouldn't have more than one litter a year.

She added: "Giving birth every five months would have a tremendously debilitating effect and drain the cat of calcium.

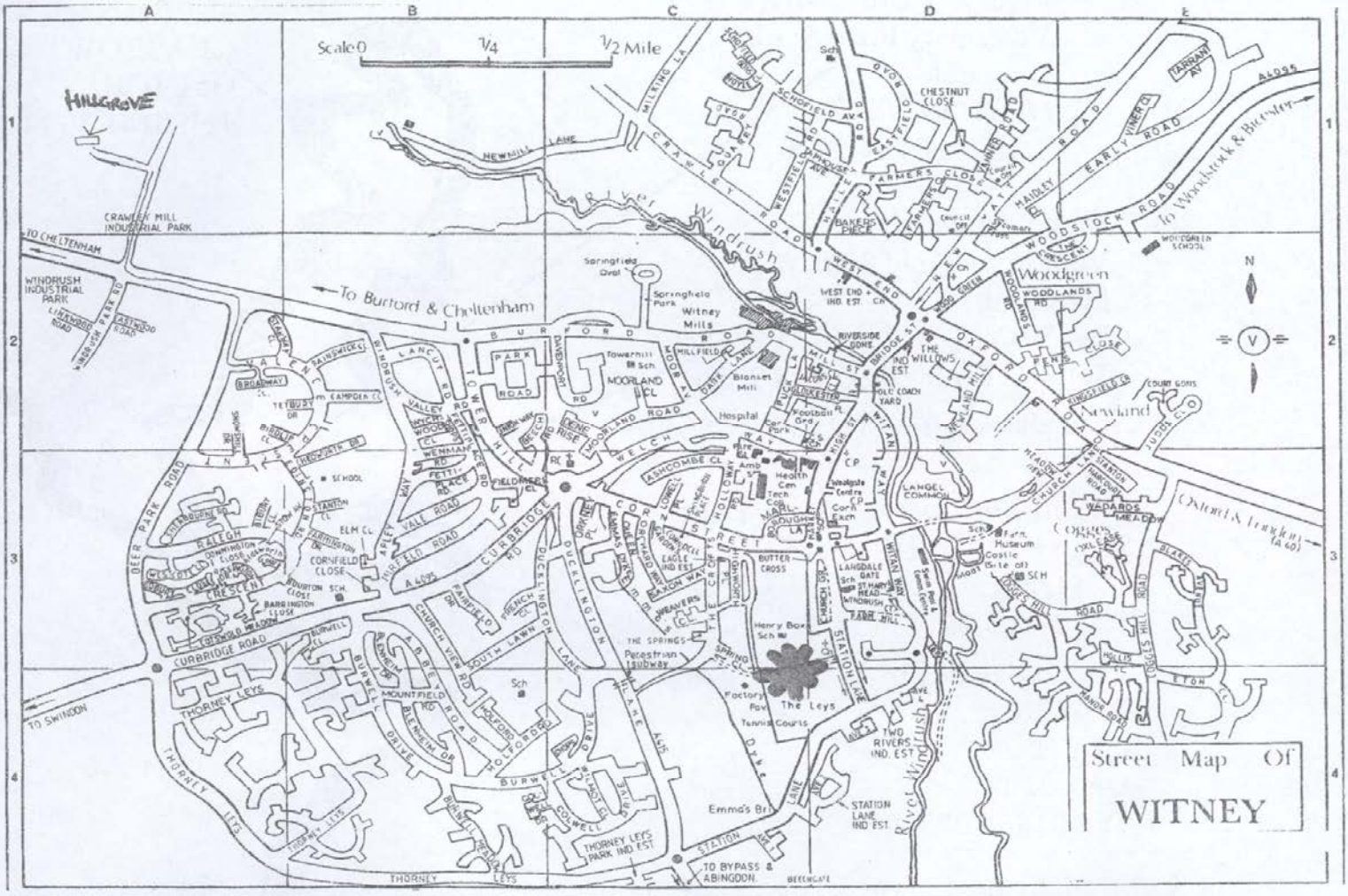
"The result would be that the cat would be malnourished and cannibalise the kittens.

"I haven't come across an example but it's something you come across in text books."

The action group Save the Hillgrove Cats is preparing a private prosecution against Mr Brown under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act, on the grounds that the cats are kept in cruel conditions.

RALLY & DEMO AGAINST HILLGROVE 11th JULY

Before the demonstration at Hillgrove Farm the general consensus was that it would be a good idea to have a dedicated rally in Witney with high profile speakers so that the people of Witney are fully aware of our presence. This is not a substitute for a demo at Hillgrove. We will have a demo at the farm immediately after the rally as usual.



A Schnews reader sent us this to reprint....

And finally... "hello, I'd like to order a pizza"... "I love you, will you marry me?"... "listen pal, I've just seen yer card in the phone box, how much do yer want?"... " Goin' down, Goin' down,... Goin' down," They think its all over... Poor old Costain, they thought they'd take on the contract that even Tarmac wouldn't touch – the Newbury contract. Since then the offices round the country have apparently been receiving nuisance phone calls, weird and wonderful faxes, unwanted junk mail, girlie calling cards left in phone boxes with their number printed on it, even the odd office occupation...

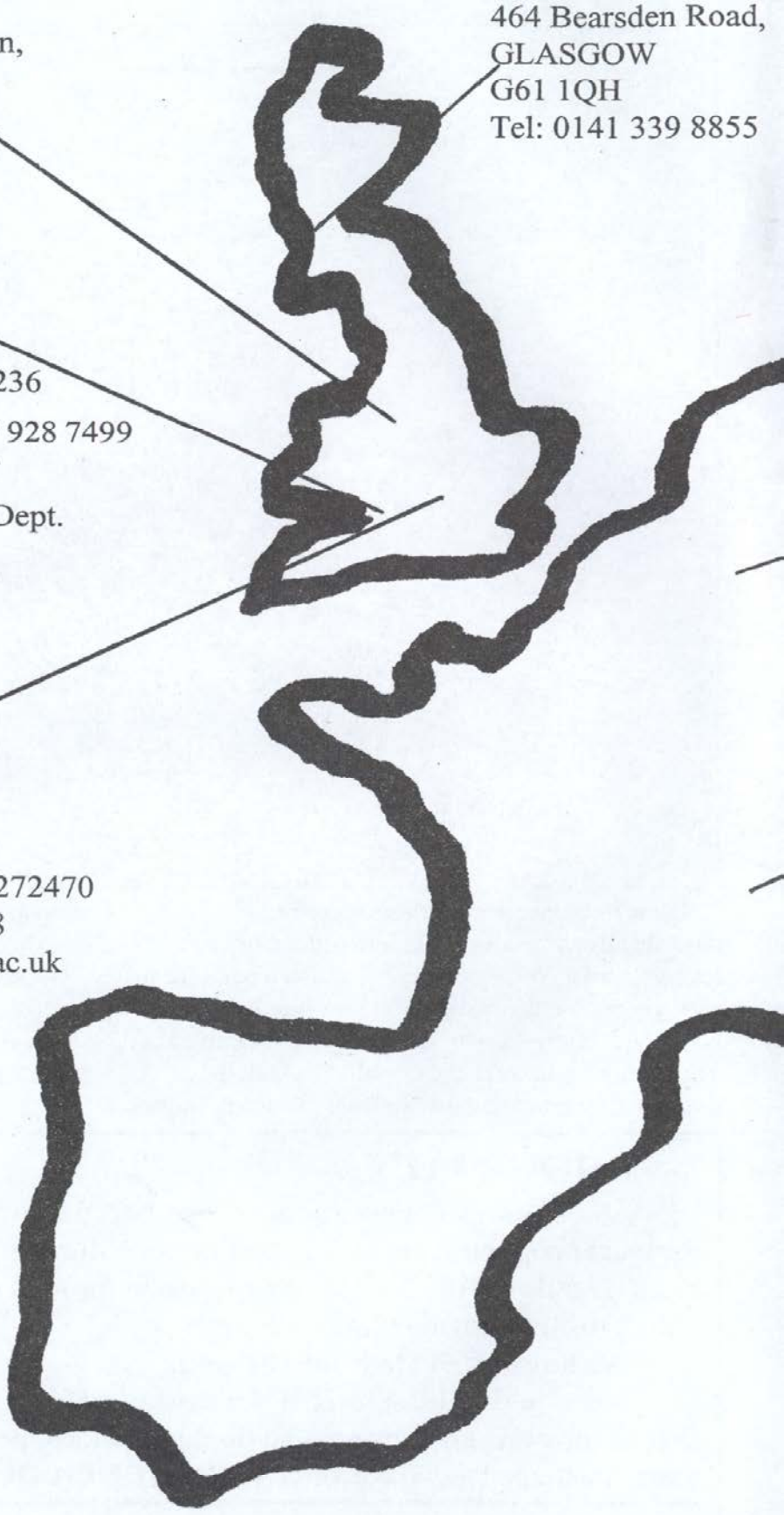
PHONE POLL

A popular local newspaper – The Oxford Journal/Courier held a phone poll last week for local people to vote on whether or not Hillgrove Farm should be closed down. After a week of calls on 10th June the results came through with a staggering 95% of local people voting to close down Hillgrove Farm!!

We knew the vote would be won.

We wouldn't be surprised if the measly 5% of votes to keep it open were made by Brown himself. There is now no doubt how local people feel about having a cat abuser on their doorstep. They have voted to **BOOT HIM OUT!**

WHERE HILLGROVE



Glasgow Vet School,
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464 Bearsden Road,
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Leahurst,
NESTON
Tel: 0151 794 2000

Bristol University,
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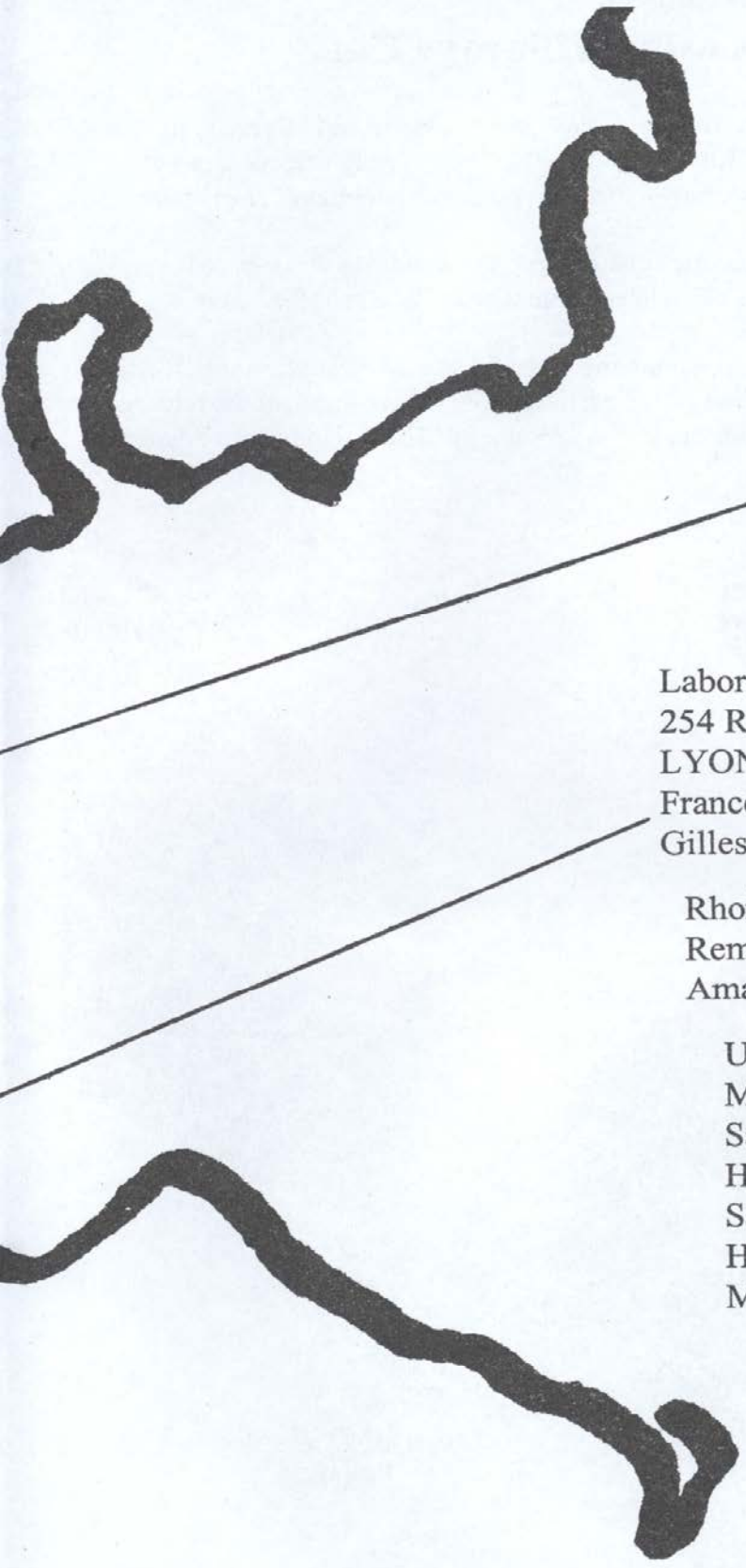
CATS SUFFER AND DIE



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Amanda Evans – 0033472 72 3123

UK
Meriaux Animal Health Care
Sandringham House,
Harlow Business Park,
Sandringham Ave
Harlow CM19 5TG
Mel Brewer 01279 – 775858

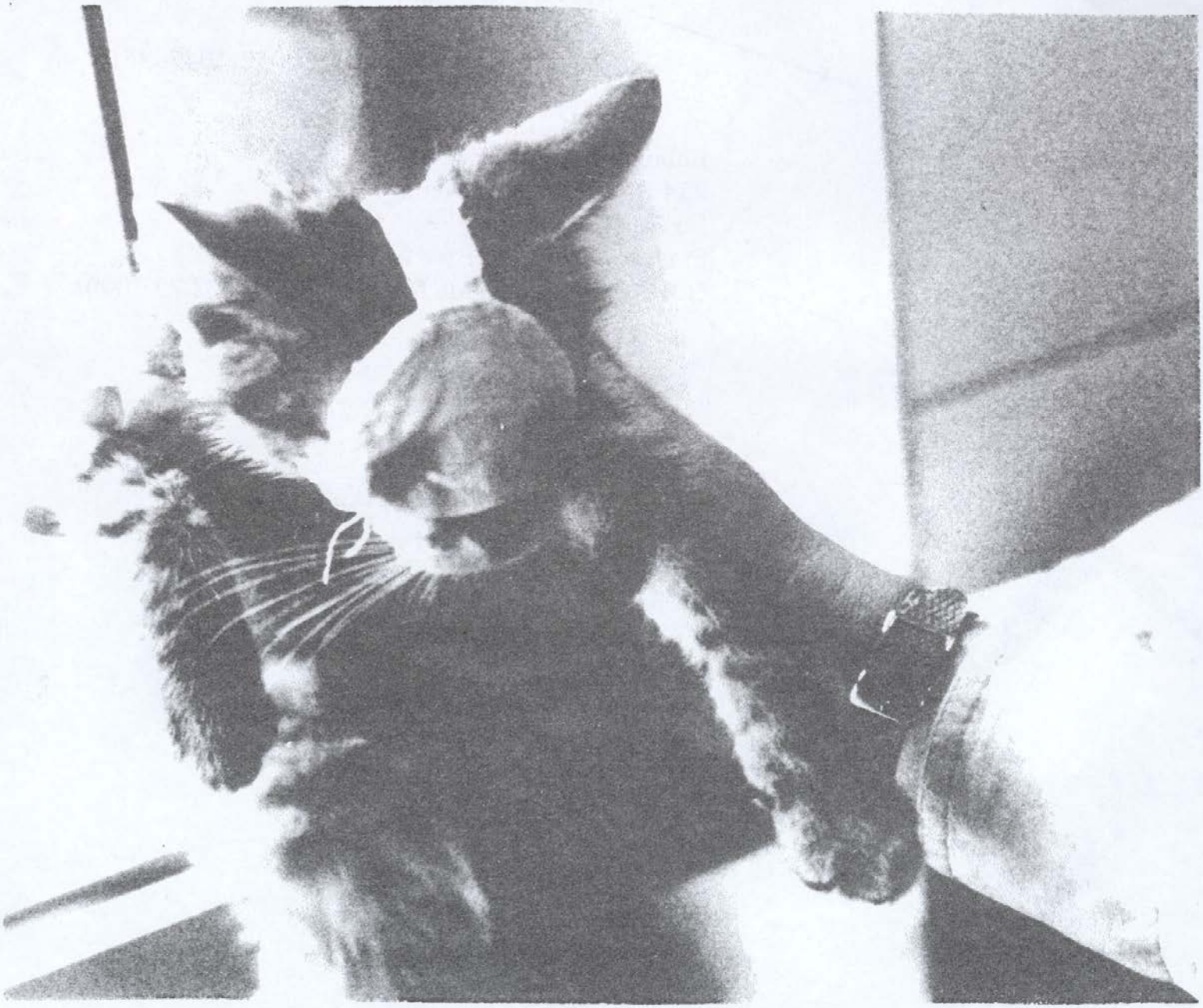
DEMONSTRATION AT PHYSIOLOGY DEPT. – OXFORD UNIVERSITY

After they were exposed as using Hillgrove Cats

About 20 determined campaigners turned up at the notorious physiology dept., of Oxford University to register their protest at Prof. Blakemore's barbaric torture of Hillgrove cats and kittens. A magnificent array of banners and posters were displayed along Parks Road for passers by to be in no doubt about what goes on behind the closed doors of the Physiology Dept..

Several police officers and a selection of labotomized security guards kept us away from the door to the physiology dept.. One security guard told us that the members of that department were "afraid" of us! Too ashamed to show their faces more like it.

A few home truths were aimed at Blakemore etc. via the megaphone. There was a lot of public support and people were horrified when we told them what was going on just a few feet away. We were amazed at the number of doctors and students who approached us with inside information. It was very useful. There will be more demos at this outdated torture laboratory.



The terrible fate of Hillgrove kittens who end up inside the Physiology Dept. at Oxford University. Underneath the hood this kitten's eyes are sewn up in a pointless sight deprivation experiment.

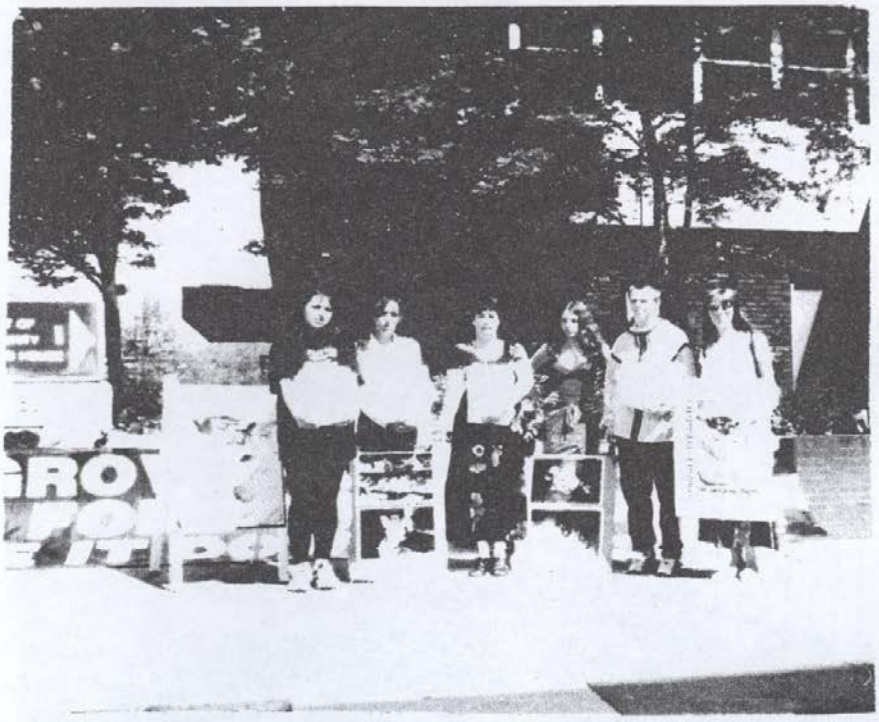
HOME OFFICE RUNNING SCARED

Peter Gore-Darke and Richard James Lysons are the Home Office Inspectors responsible for inspecting Hillgrove Farm (and what a fine job they do!!?). They are based at Swindon Home Office, Spring Gardens House, Princes St.,Swindon, SN1 2JA.

We wrote to the inspectors telling them we were bringing in a petition on Wednesday 20th May 1998 and asking them for a convenient time. We received a short message on our answer machine saying that Gore-Darke and Lysons were away at a conference for 3 days and that we should hand the petition in to the London Home Office. We rang Swindon Home Office and spoke to a secretary who told us her name is Mrs. Camp. We were polite as always and for some reason Mrs Camp completely went to pieces. Her voice started to quiver and she almost became hysterical. She told us that she had her orders not to let us speak to the inspectors and that Swindon Home Office would definitely not accept our petition at any time. I cannot emphasise enough that we were polite and calm at all times and there was no reason for this reaction. Suddenly she said "I…I.. I'm, putting the phone down now. I'm going to hang up I'm going to hang up…" I said incredulously "You're going to hang up on me??" and she did! The woman seems to be close to some kind of breakdown after just one phone call!!

We were determined to hand this petition in to Gore-Darke and Lysons (or a representative) because it was signed by 100,000 people. It was obvious that the inspectors were afraid of what questions they would be asked and they obviously couldn't care less about the cats and kittens at Hillgrove Farm. We've asked several times for meetings with the inspectors to discuss the records and other evidence of cruelty and each time they've refused to meet us or discuss it on the phone.

So next time you hear Brown saying "I'm licensed and inspected by the Home Office and the inspectors are more than happy with my business". Remember these inspectors find it acceptable that some cats are giving birth 3 times a year, 10% of kittens are eaten by their own mothers (a sign of stress), Brown doesn't call the vet when cats are suffering, cats are kept in overcrowded conditions (something Brown admits to) with hardly any stimulation and bedding, kittens are sold at 13 days old to laboratories and one kitten was plucked from the litter at just 5 weeks old and sent to Oxford University.



All that is acceptable to Gore-Darke and Lysons!! Well it's not acceptable to us and it proves once and for all that Home Office Inspectors are worse than useless they provide a smoke screen for horrendous animal abuse of the worst kind.

Is it any wonder that campaigners are frustrated and angry when all legal channels are closed to them and when the press show no interest when demos are peaceful? One supportive local councillor told the campaign "You can't win – if protesters cause criminal damage you're all rent a mob hooligans and when you're peaceful and reasonable your ignored!". But WE WILL WIN it's only a matter of time and determination. The truth is emerging and they are responsible for the appalling conditions the cats are kept in.They have the power to recommend Hillgrove's licence be revoked.

So seven of us turned up on a sunny day on May 20th as planned, complete with banners, leaflets and petitions. We were all perfectly well behaved and respectable. BBC South East (TV) turned up and wanted to know if we were going to chain ourselves to the railings !!. Swindon Home Office is on the 8th floor of Spring Gardens House, and on the ground floor is the dole office. We always get lots of support from the locals who are signing on. The occupants of the 7th floor gave us the thumps up and shouted their support for us.

When we asked the security guard if we could hand in the weighty petition forms his response was to call the police! We had no idea that petitions were illegal!

No-one from the Home Office would speak to us. Staff from other departments seemed to know nothing about the strange people on the 8th floor who regularly locked themselves in to their own secret department. We featured on the BBC news that night and Heather James (spokesperson for Save the Hillgrove Cats) had a lot to say about the day's events. She said that Swindon Home Office were telling 100,000 people to get lost.

ACTION:

Please write to and ring Swindon Home Office asking them to comment on Brown's breeding records and the conditions at Hillgrove Farm. Please keep letters or phone calls polite but demand a reply.

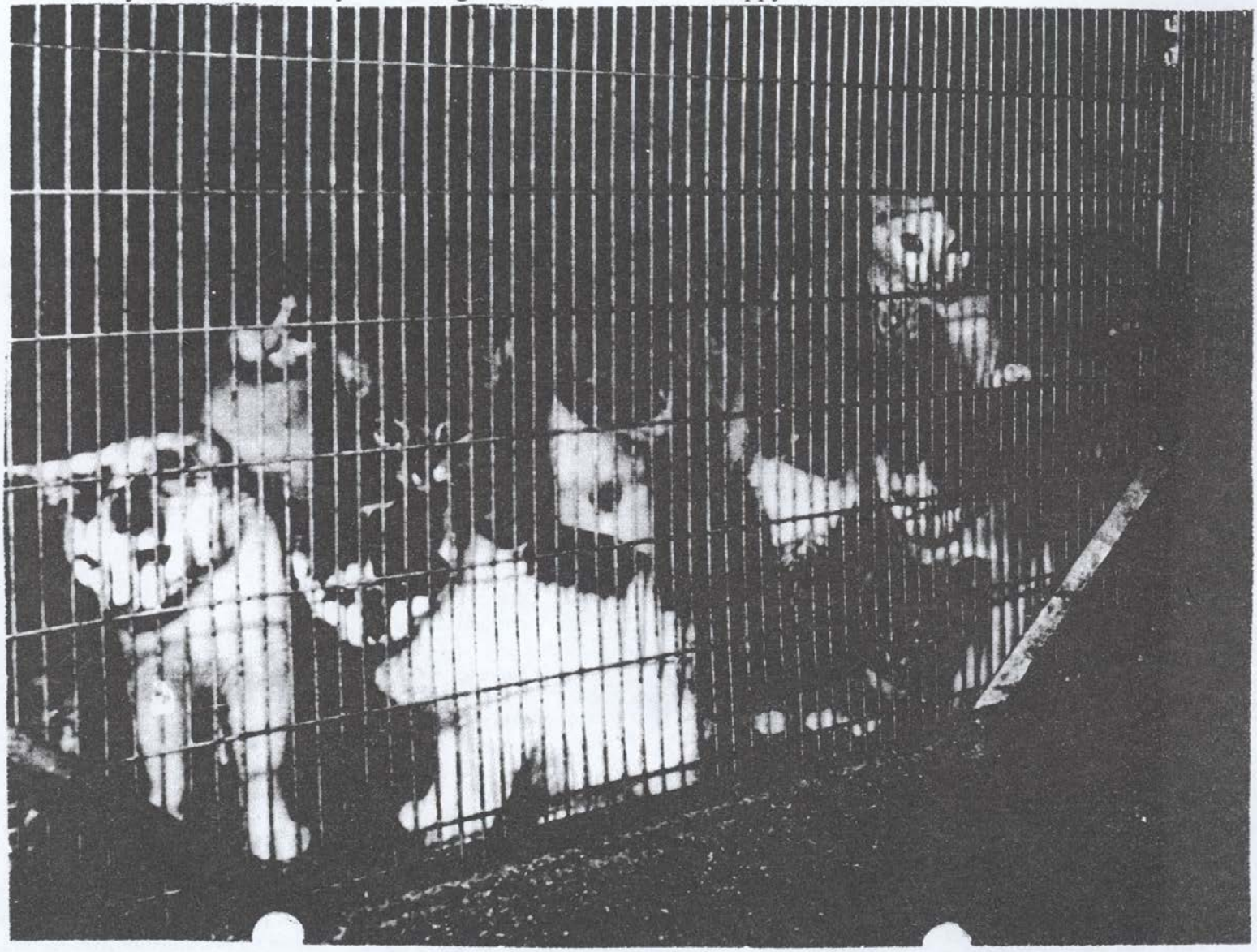
Remember everything you've read about in Hillgrove's own records has been passed ok by these Home Office inspectors!

Swindon Home Office, Spring Gardens House, Princes St.,Swindon, SN1 2JA. Tel: 01793 514029. Also contact the Home Office in London. Mr Wilkes 0171 273 2861 and Danielle Rosiery 0973 440438

BROWN FAILS TO DUPE CENTRAL TV

Brown let a camera crew from Central News South film some of the cats on Mon 1st June 1998. He probably knew what was coming in the Mirror the next day! About 10 cats were filmed through a glass screen. The conditions were worse than we thought and he was trying to show the very best of what he had!

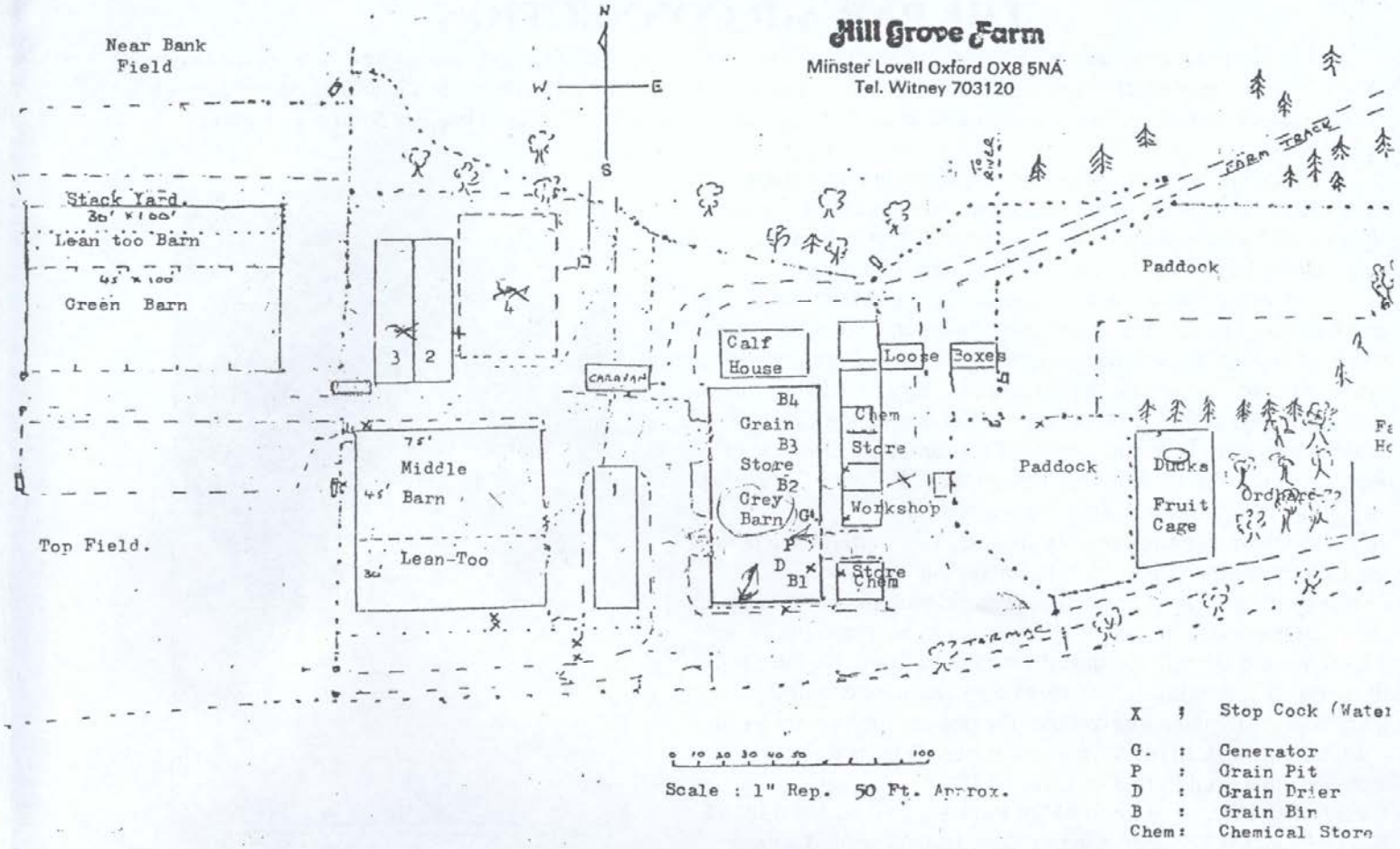
The cats were all adult and it was probably a breeding pen i.e. 1 Tom with 9 females. The cage was barren with one shelf and a few bowls. There was no bedding in sight, no toys and nothing to climb on. The cats were definitely overcrowded. They looked frightened, confused and unhappy.



We recently obtained this photograph taken inside the sheds at Hillgrove Farm, just look at the overcrowded pens! These are Hillgrove cats and this is what we are fighting for.

WHAT THE CAMPAIGN NEEDS

1. We need reliable transport contacts. If you are taking a car, mini-bus, or coach to any of the Hillgrove demos and can offer spaces please let us know so we can put you on the transport contact list. For the last two demos we have matched over 500 people with transport contacts on each demo so please ring us on 0121 632 6460.
2. We need contacts in every town and city in the UK who can put posters up in shops, libraries and public places. Also if you know of a local health-food/bookshop who will take copies of the newsletter please contact us on the above number.
3. We need more support on the vigils and daily demos. If you or your group can spare a few hours to come to either of these please contact us.
4. The Hillgrove Campaign is huge with a mailing list of several thousand, we distribute everything free and will always do so. If you can make a donation to the campaign please do so. It is worth remembering that we are entirely voluntary and every penny you donate goes directly towards closing Hillgrove Farm as it did in closing Consort beagle breeders. Please make cheques/PO's to Save the Hillgrove Cats.



Chained protester arrested by police

A WOMAN chained herself to a car steering wheel in an attempt to block the entrance to the cattery at Hillgrove Farm.

She and two men were arrested within minutes by three police officers, who were already there as part of the constant police observation at the farm. They cut through the steering wheel to release the woman from the car.

The protesters arrived at the Minster Lovell farm, where cats are bred for laboratory experiments, at about 3.40pm yesterday. They parked their car across the entrance and let its tyres down before the woman chained herself to the steering wheel using a cycle lock round her neck.

All three were arrested.

Sgt Chris Tarrant, of Witney police, said they were being held at Witney police station for questioning. "When they arrived police officers were already in the area and it was over in a matter of minutes.

"We cut the steering wheel to release her from the vehicle and she provided us with the key to the D lock at the police station," he said.

"The intention of the protesters, we believe, was to disrupt workers leaving the premises by obstructing the road."

He added that there were always police officers at Hillgrove in the morning and afternoon when staff were arriving and leaving, and that it was under constant police observation.

The names of the three arrested have not been released and they have not been charged.

One is from London, one from Dorset and one from Hertfordshire.

New mass demo planned

ANIMAL rights campaigners are gearing up for another mass demo at the controversial cat breeding farm near Witney this weekend.

More than 1,000 protesters are expected to converge on Hillgrove Farm on Sunday.

Police are preparing an action plan to keep the peace. The latest estimate of the cost of the 15-month policing operation is about £570,000.

Hillgrove Farm owner Chris Brown is licensed by the Home Office and breeds cats for medical research.

Save the Hillgrove Cats campaigners are also now targeting those it believes both handle and receive the animals. Yesterday they demonstrated outside Pan Air, a Colchester livestock transport company, and tomorrow they plan to protest at Oxford University Physiology Department.

Police tactics

WHILE the police have been spending large sums of public money on protecting the 'cat farm' at Witney, many protesters claim this is due to a heavy bias in favour of Christopher Brown. A few even claim Mr Brown is a mason and therefore able to influence high-ranking police officers.

However, this can not be the case, as a brief look at police tactics will tell. Many arrests have been haphazard and unfair and inspired by anything other than an actual breach of the law.

There are many allegations of heavy-handed policing and, judging by the number of camcorder wielding demonstrators and the success of hunt saboteurs in dealing with wrongful or violent arrest, it is hard to imagine there will not be sizeable financial settlements in favour of demonstrators in times to come.

If a small percentage of the damages awarded are donated to the Hillgrove campaign by well-intentioned supporters, their costs will be covered for many a demonstration to come.

With police helping to fund the campaign with public money they must be surely as anti-Hillgrove as any of the demonstrators.

C.Clarke
Ducklington Lane, Witney

THE PAR AIR CONNECTION

Par Air are a company who specialise in the transport of live animals by land, sea or air. We were already well aware of this company through the Consort Beagle Campaign. One of their vans was seen leaving Consort kennels in Herefordshire shortly before it was forced to close by demonstrations (Consort bred beagles for the vivisection industry).

A fax we have from Par Air to Hillgrove Farm states. "Livestock shipped by land, sea and air to all parts of the world. Specialists in the transport of Biological Animals. Ministry of Agriculture Carrying Agents. E.C. registered holding.

Par Air are also a quarantine kennels and featured in the news recently for having hopelessly inadequate conditions and were ordered by government inspectors to make improvements. A Par Air van was seen entering and leaving Hillgrove Farm and it is obvious that they are picking up and delivering cats to laboratories both here and abroad. The Managing Director of Par Air, Mike Parish, said that he supplies Hillgrove Farm with special airfreight kennels (oh that's alright then!).



● Claims denied — company director Mike Parish with one of the quarantine cats at Par Air Kennels, Stanway. *Picture: NIGEL BROWN.*

About 30 demonstrators mainly from B.A.L.E. attended a noisy vociferous protest at Par Air's premises and have been demonstrating there at least once a week ever since. Parish told the local press that he would allow us on to his premises to have a look around but when confronted by us refused. He later told the press "I offered to talk to them over the weekend and show them round the place I gave them the opportunity but they did not wish to speak to me". That is not true. Why is it that everyone involved in this evil trade LIES?

Please phone/fax or write to **Mike Parish - Tel: 01206 330332 - Fax: 01206 331277. Par Air Services Ltd. Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 5LN**, and let him know how you feel about his connections with Hillgrove Farm and vivisection. Please make an extra special effort to phone/fax on Friday 19th and Monday 22nd June

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MEMORIES OF WORLD DAY by a supporter

April 18th will be with me for a long time. When I and two friends arrived at 11.30, we sat in the car and had an early lunch. We talked about what might happen and hoped the same amount of people and more would attend this peaceful protest. By 12.30 people were arriving in droves, all kinds of people from all walks of life.

My heart felt lightened by the sight. We walked down to the gate waiting our turn to be searched, but the police let me through, and over the gate I went hoping I would not slip and make a fool of myself (got over OK). Then the walk down the slope across some fields and back up the hill to the farm itself. What a sight met me, so many, you really couldn't count. Then the noise, oh the noise. I hoped the noise would not upset the cats too much. People were understandably angry and let that be known. After the horses had made a few sweeps of the fields trying to disperse the crowds I returned to the road.

After about an hour listening and watching people started to come away up to the main road by then it was obvious to us that people had been hurt and we prayed not too badly. The police were very worried and were determined not to let a repeat of what happened back in Feb. a march on Witney no way was this going to happen and in the end they got their way.

I shall never forget the faces on some of the police, they seemed so angry, and I thought tired too. They made up for this with four or maybe six snatch arrests this was quite unbelievable and was looked upon with anger and frustration. The force was quite unnecessary because the people put up no resistance. After this we were kept waiting for maybe an hour or more before we could get ot our cars.

Arrived home about 8pm tired feeling worn out and dying for a cup of tea, as I got out of the car I looked up and could see and hear my three dogs waiting and going mad they were so pleased to see me. When I finally got in the house my cats were waiting too. My four beautiful cats. My four cats who share my home and fill my life with so much love. I began to prepare their food and as I was doing this I am thinking about the cats at Hillgrove and I am thinking what unloving lives they are living and that's why I and hundreds of other people came to Hillgrove today to express just how we feel and maybe free these cats from the hell they have to endure.

God bless you people who are fighting for their freedom let's just pray it won't be too long, together we will win.

Police arrest 39 as 700 campaigners join cat farm protest



CATTY: One protester makes her feelings very clear



ON THE MOVE: Protesters march towards the farm Pictures: Antony Moore

A TEN-year-old boy was among 39 protesters arrested during the latest demonstration at Hillgrove Cat Farm.

The youngster is being questioned about an offence of disorder at the last protest in April where there were violent clashes between demonstrators and police.

The boy's aunt said: "He was just walking along and they arrested him and wouldn't tell us why."

Police confirmed a juvenile had been arrested. There were angry scenes as police arrested the boy, who is from Liverpool. He was taken to the police station, accompanied by his mother.

Twenty-six of the 39 arrested yesterday were being questioned about offences allegedly committed at a demonstration at the farm in Minster Lovell, near Witney, on April 18.

About 700 protesters took part in the latest demonstration.

Youths in balaclavas mixed with women and children in the long trek to the farm yesterday.

The protest was mostly peaceful, with a few clashes between police, some mounted on horseback and others with riot shields, outside farmer Christopher Brown's house.

Some protesters threw rocks at the police but the incident was short-lived.

As campaigners milled in the field, the biggest draw was an elderly clergyman in long white robes holding a placard which read Christians against all animal abuse.

He spoke against the cat farm, and was rewarded with three cheers afterwards.

The Rev James Thompson, 68, a retired rector, said: "I feel the church which claims to be the moral mouth-piece of the nation should be taking a stand against cruelty.

"This is comparable to what the slave trade was a couple of hundred years ago. It's our task as Christians to protect life."

Mr Thompson, a former senior hospital chaplain in Aberdeen, said he thought most protesters were peaceful but said there could be a rent-a-mob element.

By SARAH BROWN

Another protester, Sally Higgs, 33, from Faringdon, said: "I've got ME and struggling up here absolutely kills me but it's worth it.

"I think it's awful that this trade has carried on with all the public opinion that's against it.

"I don't agree with violence but because of what Christopher Brown is doing, I don't feel sorry for him."

Thames Valley Police Assistant Chief Constable Tim Davidson said: "A substantial police presence and the early arrests of alleged offenders stopped further violent scenes as were evident at the last demonstration on April 18. There were no injuries."

So far, protecting Hillgrove Farm has cost more than £600,000. Police spokesman Richard Goodfellow said the force would continue to pay for the protection of the farm.

Protest organiser Greg Jennings, of Save the Hillgrove Cats campaign, said: "Animals are being produced here for cruel and unnecessary experiments. We will be coming back until we have seen Hillgrove Farm closed."

The farm was set up 30 years ago to breed cats for medical research.

Owner Mr Brown declared: "These people want to stop animal experiments yet they behave like a mob.

"They should make reasoned arguments rather than organise demonstrations at huge public cost. Our animals are kept in A1 condition – the protesters have no reason to be here."

Oxford Mail
Monday 1st June

WHAT DO CATS REMEMBER OF DAYS?

They remember the ways in from the cold,
the warmest spot the place of food.
They remember the places of pain, their enemies.
The irritation of birds, the warm fumes of the soil,
the usefulness of dust.
They remember the creak of a bed, the sound
of their owner's footsteps,
The taste of fish, the loveliness of cream.

Cats remember what is essential of days.
Letting all other memories go as of no worth,
they sleep sounder then we,
whose hearts break remembering so many inessential things.

Brian Patten (1996) "Armada". Flamingo Publishers



SAVED: Cat farm worker Allie Moore with Buddy, the puss she smuggled out from Hillgrove Farm

I smuggled cat to safety

FORMER Hillgrove cat farm worker Allie Moore told how she smuggled out her favourite cat.

Ms Moore, 25, of Frys Hill, Oxford, left the farm in October last year, after a month off sick, and was asked not to return because she had taken the cat, Buddy.

She said workers at the farm had smuggled out 'hundreds' of cats and re-housed them by writing them off as dead.

She said: "Every time I went to work I used to let Buddy out and he would follow me round.

"I smuggled him out. I told the police and they went straight and told Mr Brown. He told me not to come back, but he was nice about it."

She said now Buddy was in a home environment he was a changed cat.

"He never used to sit on anyone's lap," she said. "Now it's as if he can't say thank you enough."

Ms Moore, who worked at the farm for five years, claimed the cats did not receive adequate veterinary care. "You often see cats in a lot of pain and it only takes one phone call to the vet to save the pet's life but it doesn't happen," she said.

She said the cats lived in cramped conditions and the breeding queens were put down when they stopped producing kittens. She now wants to set up a charity to provide new homes for these cats.

Christopher Brown, owner of the farm, which breeds cats for research, said: "The cats receive veterinary attention whenever necessary."

He agreed the cats needed more space.

OXFORD MAIL

JUNE 8th 1998

ANOTHER WORKER SPILLS THE BEANS!

A former Hillgrove cat farm worker Allie Moore told the Oxford Mail how awful the conditions are inside the farm. She said the cats live in cramped conditions and Brown agreed! She also claimed that cats weren't receiving adequate veterinary care when they needed it and that queens were destroyed went they stopped breeding. If it wasn't for the campaign these facts would never have come to light. The truth is finally being told after 27 years of secrecy.

MERCHANDISE LIST

Item	Price
T/shirt (XL-HGF Breed cats for torture & pic) Col Black	£5.00
T/shirt (XL HGF "Saved" pic of kittens) Col Grey	£5.00
Video (footage of HGF, exp & demos) (free to groups)	£5.00
Factsheets	FREE
Leaflets	FREE
New full colour leaflet1	FREE
Newsletters	FREE
Car stickers	FREE
Posters	FREE

Please make cheques/PO's out to Save the Hillgrove Cats



ANGRY: Chris Brown claims documents were taken

New row over cat farm claim

FARMER Chris Brown today claimed leaked documents about his controversial cat farm were taken without his permission.

The breeding records, leaked to the *Oxford Mail*, appear to show that cats from Hillgrove Farm were being sold from 13 days old.

They also reveal a high number of kitten deaths. The documents show that ten per cent of the cats die or are killed by their mother.

The farm near Minster Lovell has been the scene of regular demonstrations by animal rights protesters.

But Mr Brown said no papers had been released and they had therefore been taken without his consent.

He said the majority of kittens were sold at two or three months old but different ages might be required "occasionally" and those under six weeks had foster mothers.

And he said campaigners were anarchists, adding: "I'm running a legitimate business monitored by the Home Office for the benefit of humans and animals."

Heather James, of Save the Hillgrove Cats, said: "All vets we have spoken to agree it is completely abnormal for cats to eat their kittens and they had not heard of it before."



A challenge to farmer Brown

CHRISTOPHER Brown has accused us at the campaign of being 'ignorant' about the state of the cats at Hillgrove farm.

Well, I must say that's rich coming from a man who in court and on several other occasions has said he "doesn't know" where some of the cats sold end up!

Also at Oxford Crown Court Helen Ramsey, who has worked at the farm for ten years amazingly stated that she did not know where cats end up. Unbelievably Susan O'Shea, who worked there for four years, also claimed she didn't know. So Mr Brown don't call us ignorant.

We are taking a private prosecution against Christopher Brown under the Protection of Animals Act 1911. I would like to publicly challenge Mr Brown to allow a journalist and photographer into the sheds to see every cat and kitten in the place.

I anticipate the answer will be no. If it is people must ask themselves, why not?

HEATHER JAMES
Save the Hillgrove Cats
Box CB, 11 Magdalen Road
Oxford

100,000 people back closing of farm

Farm vigil

W OXON: An all-night vigil by animal rights protesters outside Hillgrove Farm passed peacefully on Saturday. A police spokesman said 18 people camped near the gates of the cat breeding centre near Witney.

Oxford Mail 2nd June 1998
Oxford Mail 4th April 1998
Oxford Mail 18th May 1998

Hillgrove Farm sells kittens under two weeks old...



to laboratories to be used in experiments like this.



We will not stop until Hillgrove Farm closes!

THE TALON CONSPIRACY



This and many more rare earth and animal liberation publications can be found at thetalonconspiracy.com Talon is run by an all volunteer staff, so please consider to give a small donation so we can continue to keep this site going. Our paypal info can be found on the site. Thanks.