

STOP HUNTINGDON ANIMAL CRUELTY

Newsletter 4

Tel: 0121 632 6460

STOP HUNTINGDON ANIMAL CRUELTY, PO BOX 381, CHELTENHAM, GLOS. GL50 1YN

e-mail: info@shac.u-net.com

www.shac.net

World Day Report, Beagle Day

and much more inside...



WORLD DAY FOR LAB ANIMALS

World Day for Laboratory Animals at Huntingdon Life Sciences, Europe's biggest animal torture lab was an inspiring, powerful and amazingly successful demo.

About 1,500 demonstrators gathered at the lab on Woolley Road, and from the onset there was no mistaking everyone's anger and determination to bring down this evil centre of animal abuse. For many people it was the first time they had seen the laboratory surrounded with razor wire, high fences and security cameras – all costing a fortune and designed to protect the animal killers and keep all of us out. A huge noisy crowd gathered in front of HLS and the numbers grew steadily as more and more people arrived.

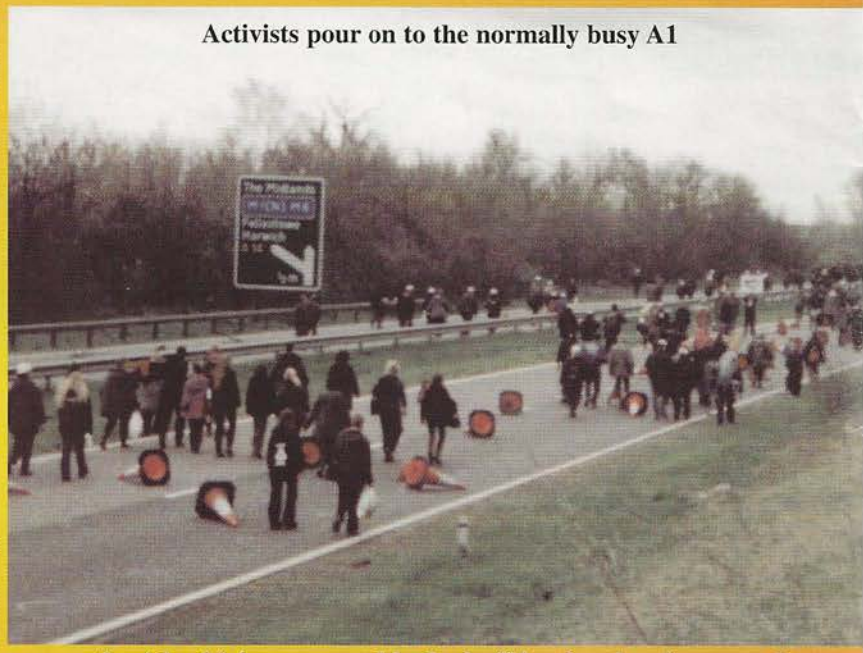
The speeches then started and were superb. Bev gave a powerful and inspiring speech about the comparisons between the Nazi death camps and HLS's torture labs, and asked everyone to fully and unequivocally commit themselves to closing down HLS. As John Curtin and Robin Webb gave impassioned speeches everyone began to climb over the ditches and into the fields surrounding the lab.

It was wonderful to see hundreds of people from elderly ladies to little children all marching in the mud with the same determined look on their face.

Holes were cut in the perimeter fence and amazingly about 150 people got onto the site as those still outside cheered them on and tried to join them. Two activists actually got into an open building and confronted a lab worker before climbing onto the roof of one of the units.

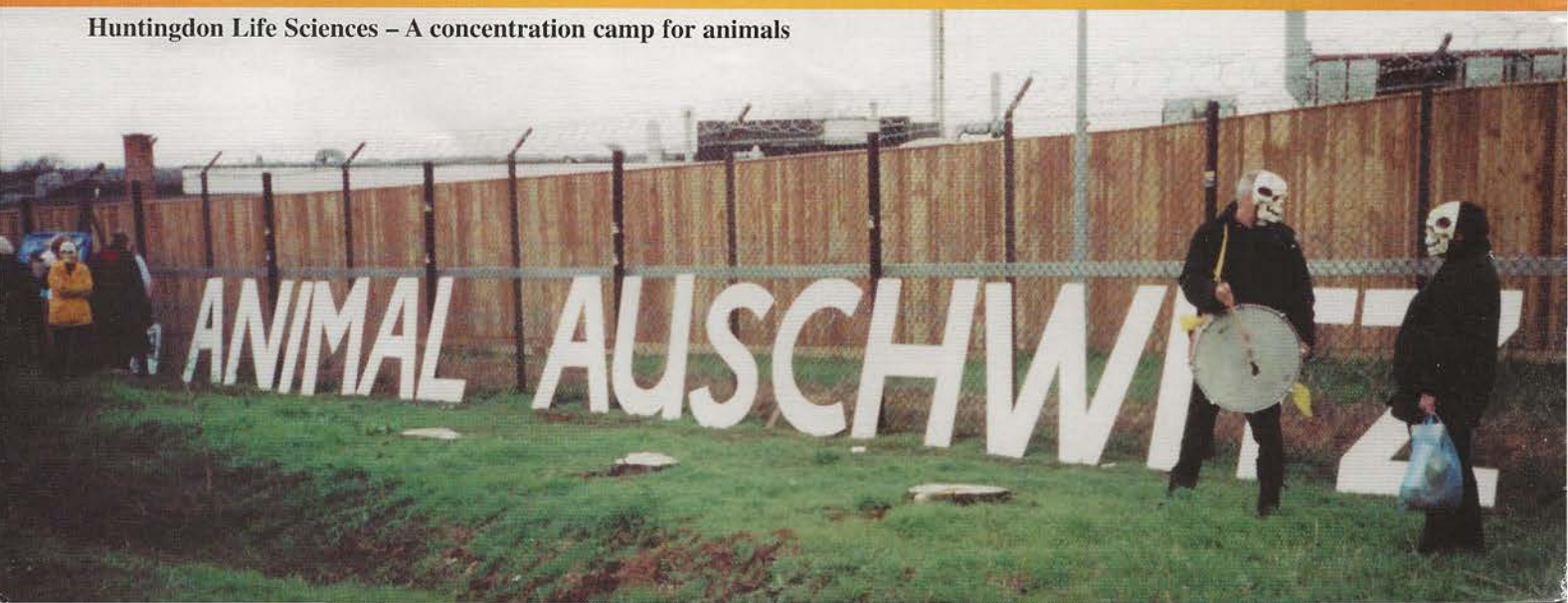
As the police struggled to cope, people began to pour onto the A1 which was soon blocked off by the chanting crowd, and stayed blocked until seven o'clock that evening as hundreds of demonstrators marched up the A1 to the A14 junction.

Activists pour on to the normally busy A1



The World Day demo at HLS was a fantastic achievement by all of us and proved what can be done when we all stand up for the animals and fight for them. We have had loads of letters and phone calls from people who came to the demo – everyone is saying what we all know in our hearts: We can and WILL close down HLS. We have the power and we have the commitment. We have closed Consort, Hillgrove and Shamrock – WE'RE GOING TO CLOSE HLS TOO!

Huntingdon Life Sciences – A concentration camp for animals



The Activist's Story...

On World Day for Lab Animals at HLS two activists managed to avoid the eight foot security fence, the rolls of razor wire, the police and the security guards to get onto the roof of HLS. This is their story:

Myself and another activist managed to scale the fence by the cattle unit quite easily, despite a rather angry looking policeman shouting at us and getting himself into a tiz. The security guard (with dog) accompanying him looked rather pale.

We faced the police and security presence safely behind two large rolls of razor wire, which we noted with glee would have to be cut in order to remove us from HLS. However, the stand-off was short lived because 150 other activists had charged through the fence at the other end. The one security guard left with the job of guarding us decided he was needed elsewhere as the fence 'protecting' HLS had been well and truly breached.

This of course left a window of opportunity to enter HLS unchallenged. We carefully trod over the razor wire and gained entry to the rest of HLS. First stop was the cattle unit where cows were being milked. We ran down the main thoroughfare trying doors on the way, observing the numerous riot vans speeding towards our colleagues on the far side.

Pretty soon a door to a lab was found that was not only open but which had the key left in the lock! Do they never learn?

We went inside but a rather large HLS employee emerged saying "so you got in then?" before ejecting us out of the building. He got on his mobile phone, being a spoil sport, and tried to interfere with the protesters plans, it was decided to go somewhere else.

It was not long before a ladder up to the roof of a lab was found and the top of that roof was accessed very, very easily to the horror of the rapidly emerging HLS employees and security guards.

Needless to say the police were rather busy elsewhere. The helicopter was kept busy circling above ourselves on the roof and then flying to the breach in the fence. Its job became even more difficult when a lone ultra-light flyer came into view above HLS and protesters on the ground marched on to the A1. The erratic flying to and fro obviously meant that the police had not planned for the predicament which they found themselves in.

After some time on the roof we were joined by Inspector Dougal who arrested us both and repeated over and over again that we had made our point and it would be a really good idea if we came down 'with dignity.'

As the sun was shining, the view was good and we were finding our new home quite accommodating we decided we would rather stay a bit longer. After all it's not every day you can engage HLS employees in lengthy conversation about job losses and watch police incompetence on an unprecedented scale, is it?

However Inspector Dougal was none too impressed by our desire to greet the workers in on Tuesday morning, so he played his trump card by noting that clouds were looming and that we might get a bit wet. Ourselves, being a bit more robust, welcomed the cooling air and continued to enjoy the view of a chaotic HLS on one side and a blocked A1 on the other.

Eventually someone phoned Inspector Dougal and he replied that he had given up responsibility on the ground and was busy on the roof. He said they would just have to cope without him! Resources were obviously rather stretched!

It was hardly surprising when eventually Inspector Dougal and three of his men grabbed us and physically dragged us off the roof and into the waiting police van. Despite the danger they put both us and themselves in by forcing us over various pipes and fixtures on the roof and down the ladder. We both refused to move an inch for them and sustained a few bruises from our arrests.

No doubt HLS will spend some money on a decent fence pretty soon so that means they will spend less money torturing animals. Embarrassing really as press reports have already highlighted the amount spent on the fence when this campaign started.

At the end of the day wherever animals are being tortured and killed, people who care about them will always get in to highlight their plight, to publicise their pain and motivate the public to close down hell-holes like HLS. The money they spend on security is inconsequential, we will always breach it and we are not afraid of their razor wire, their guard dogs, their hired thugs or the police.





HLS's security fence proves no match for determined activists

Dear SHAC,

I don't really know why I'm writing this, but felt I wanted to share how I feel – World Day at HLS was just brilliant – like the World Day at Hillgrove a few years back.

HLS was the first lab I ever visited when I got involved in animal rights eight years ago. When I got there I realised what a fight we had on our hands. Now, after Consort, Hillgrove and Shamrock I feel absolutely certain we can and will shut HLS.

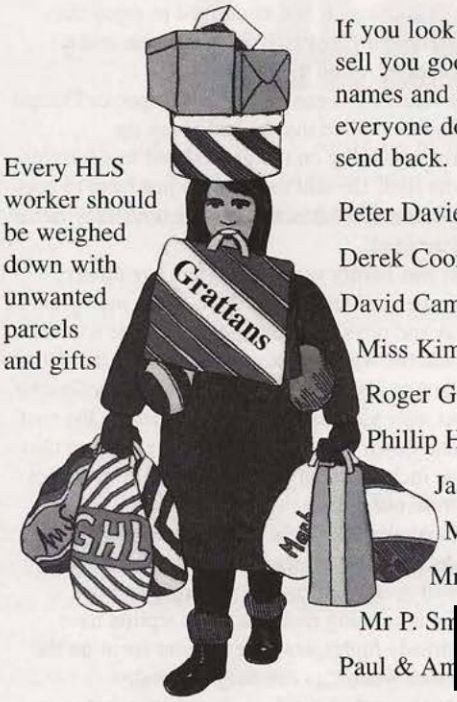
However, before Saturday HLS still seemed like a large impenetrable fortress. On Saturday afternoon I found myself inside HLS. I knew we couldn't get any animals out that day, but if there were a few more of us who knows?? And to be honest, I know it'll be financially that we really cripple them, not by demos alone, but psychologically Saturday was a real boost.

When I looked back at HLS later that day it no longer seemed a fortress. It's fences and razor wire seemed to shrink before my eyes. It no longer seemed formidable or even difficult to close. It seemed vulnerable, weak and we seemed so strong. I used to think HLS would be the last place we'd close. Now I know it's just the next torture chamber that will shut – the next in a long line of victories for the animals.

For liberation always,

X

GET ACTIVE



Every HLS worker should be weighed down with unwanted parcels and gifts

If you look through any Sunday supplement magazine you will see adverts for companies offering to sell you goods, but they will send you the goods before have sent them any money. Simply fill out the names and addresses of one of the workers listed below and send off the slip to the company. If everyone does this then each worker will have mountains of unwanted mail which they have to pay to send back.

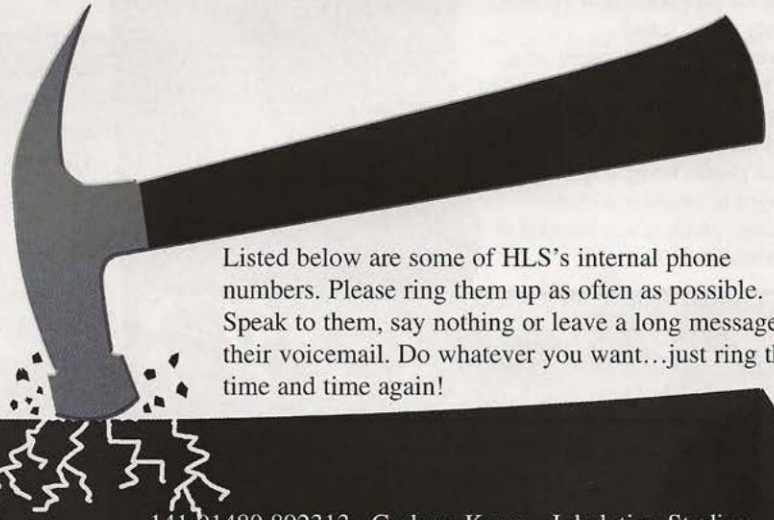
Peter Davies -
Derek Coombs
David Camero
Miss Kim Ut
Roger Good
Phillip Hay
Jason
Miss
Mrs M
Mr P. Sn
Paul & An

[redacted]
Personal details removed
Personal details removed

TOP 10 PLACES FOR STICKERS

1. Cashpoints
2. Hand dryers in public toilets
3. Bus stops
4. Shopping trolleys
5. Phone boxes
6. Zebra crossings
7. Lamp posts
8. Ticket machines in car parks
9. Buses/trains/tubes
10. Coppers' backs and vans

TIME TO SMASH HLS



Listed below are some of HLS's internal phone numbers. Please ring them up as often as possible. Speak to them, say nothing or leave a long message on their voicemail. Do whatever you want...just ring them time and time again!

141 01480 892018	Steve Chris	Administration
141 01480 892030	Andrew Gay	Marketing Director
141 01480 892037	Mark	Business Development
141 01480 892097		Large Animals
141 01480 892160	Peter Munt	Pharmacology
141 01480 892178	Tom Kitching	Genetic Toxicology
141 01480 892300		Strategic Development
141 01480 892313	Graham Knox	Inhalation Studies
141 01480 892388		Information Technology
141 01480 892500		Toxicology & Jobline
141 01480 892609	Steve Owen	Mgr. Non Rodent Toxicolgy
141 01480 892825	Angela Poyle	Metabolism & Pharmacology

STOP PRESS: Two workers (including Brian Cass) have been forced to change their numbers. Keep it up!

"Fit the fight into our daily lives!"

We are not the only ones taking on a massive opponent when we fight HLS. So are HLS!
There are hundreds of us, and aside from the passion and conviction we have, we also have the truth. But we have to be committed to keeping up the pressure with the stamina they fear. We will only win if we show HLS NOW that we are going to take every opportunity to fight them, every day, together.
There are 10,000 newsletters printed each time we go to press. If 10,000 people undertake to fit closing HLS in to their daily lives we will win.

When there's a phone blockade, if everyone phones up just ten times using the 10p return, they will get 12,500 calls an hour – over 200 every minute!

If we all phone HLS just once a day they will have one call every three seconds.

If we arrange to have three unwanted 'gifts' sent to workers every week, each worker will get 250 items every time the postman calls.

If we all arrange to go to the main gate and demonstrate for one weekday every two months, there will be over 200 of us there every day!
Can you put up a sticker every day? There's hundreds of places – cashpoints, bus stops, lamp posts, phone boxes – use your imagination. If we all just put up one a day, in two weeks we could sticker every phone box in Britain.

If we all wrote to one shareholder every week they would average one letter a day in their mail each.

If we all phoned NatWest for one minute it would add over five and a half thousand pounds to their phone bill every week – and waste their time! Phone NatWest now on 0800 331100 and the Royal Bank of Scotland on 0800 161616

Unfortunately SHAC is desperate for funds and constantly pushes itself into debt – the alternative is letting up on HLS and letting the animals down. If enough people commit to a standing order of a tenner a month we could meet our commitments and fight all the better for the animals behind those fences. Can you help there?
We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made a donation to the campaign. There are too many of you to mention personally, but you know who you are. You keep the SHAC steam train running.
If we fit the fight into our daily lives we will show HLS from the start we can be strong. If we show them now they will realise they're in trouble – we will only get stronger.

If you have been arrested at any demos at Huntingdon Life Sciences, please let us know. We can put you in touch with firms of solicitors who specialise in aniaml rights cases and can give you advice.
If you have any complaints about the policing of HLS, please write to:
Chief Constable Dennis Gunn, Cambridgeshire Constabulary HQ, The Professional Standards Dept., Hinchingbrooke Park, Huntingdon PE29 6NP.
We have a factsheet available covering the main legal points you need to be aware of – just write in for a copy.

Sit on your backside and do nothing and animals die...





OR

Take action and save animals lives now!

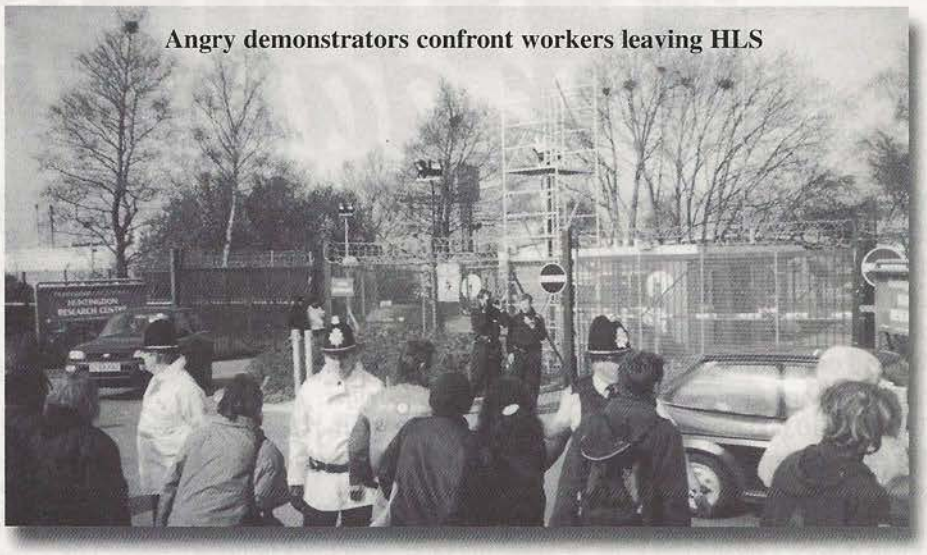
Tour of Cambridgeshire

On the 18th of March a tour of animal abusers was held in Cambridgeshire. While one half of the demo went to the meeting point, some activists stopped the local hunt going out and others paid a surprise visit to Huntingdon Life Sciences. When demonstrators arrived at the lab there were no police there at all and it took them half an hour to arrive. Anything could have happened!

A noisy demo was held and the other demonstrators arrived just in time to see the workers out. Remember the weekend staff are the animal technicians and are responsible for torturing and killing 500 animals a day at HLS. Their job is to poison animals and watch them suffer and die. As the workers tried to leave the site they faced angry demonstrators and looked visibly shocked at how many of us were there.

The demo then moved to Interfauna, HLS's beagle supplier. Interfauna was the subject of a recent undercover investigation that exposed shocking conditions and healthy dogs being killed because of over breeding.

One agile activist quickly gained entry to the site and climbed onto the roof of one of the dog units. Demonstrators could hear dogs barking inside this filthy hell-hole as they surrounded the site. Demonstrators then moved onto the notorious Babraham Institute, dubbed 'Frankenstein Farm' after an exposé in the national papers of gruesome government-funded research. There several activists went onto the site to carry out an inspection. Bags of clinical waste had been left outside over the weekend which poses a public health risk. Stacks of rodent cages were seen outside one of the sheds and farm animals presumably undergoing experiments were also observed.



Angry demonstrators confront workers leaving HLS

Just as Oxfordshire animal abusers could not sleep easy in their beds while the campaign to close Hill Grove Farm was running, so Cambridgeshire animal abusers will come to learn that until Huntingdon Life Sciences closes down, they will never know when we're going to turn up next!

During the 'Tour of Cambridgeshire' demonstrators went to the beagle breeding centre, 'Interfauna.' One activist jumped over the fence and got inside. He describes what he saw in there:

A group of ten of us walked down the side of Interfauna, the police followed close behind. By the time I reached the rear gates I was really upset from hearing the beagles barking, and although there was a policeman stood next to me, going inside seemed like the only option. I was determined and the razor wire on top of the fence was easy enough to climb over.

I ran over to the nearest building and climbed on to the roof. The roof looked like a section of it had been recently replaced. This was probably the result of the raid on Interfauna last year, when the ALF broke in through the roof and rescued 71 beagles. All of whom are now in loving homes.

After about twenty minutes and a lot of attention from the police helicopter, I made a decision to come down, mostly due to the smell, it was so overwhelming that I was having trouble stopping myself from vomiting.

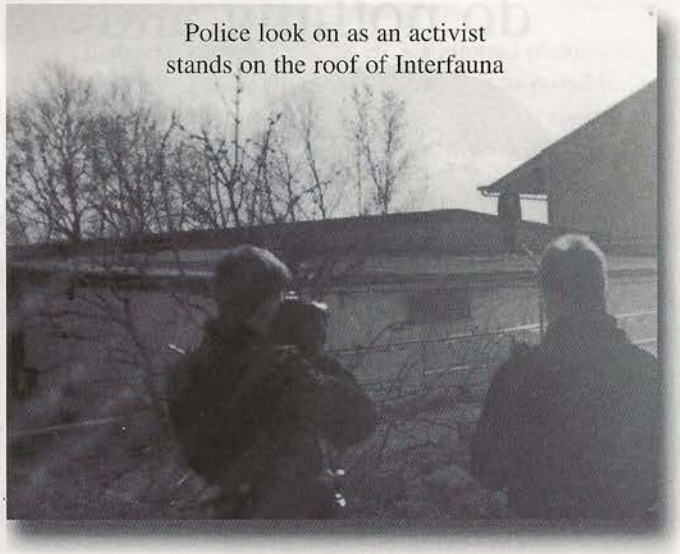
I stayed inside the compound and just wandered around the site. This was a strange experience; a helicopter buzzing above, lots of protesters and police lining the outside of the fence. But no one else inside; no security guards and no police.

I spent time looking round until I came to a six foot wall, peering over the top I was confronted with 80 or so beagles who immediately began barking.

The condition of the kennels was a disgrace. Concrete, dirty sawdust and piles of shit everywhere. There was no sign of any bedding. It's times like this that I feel ashamed to be a human being. I quickly let all the dogs out into the yard, lots of the younger dogs wanted to play, while most of the older dogs cowered in the corner of their pens, rightfully petrified of humans. The evil bastards who work at Interfauna are obviously responsible for those dogs being so scared.

After about twenty minutes the police managed to find a key to get in to the compound. They arrested me and escorted me in to a waiting police van.

I will never forget the look in the beagle's eyes as I let them out into the yard. The thought that these innocent puppies are probably in HLS at the moment, alone and afraid, being tortured to death, makes me feel physically sick. We must not rest until every animal from every lab is free to enjoy the freedom they deserve.



Police look on as an activist stands on the roof of Interfauna

April 8th 2000- BEAGLE DAY



What a brilliant day! We wanted this day to be a celebration of the lives of the beagles rescued from vivisection – and it was. The sun shone down on us all day and it was a scorcher. There were around 60 people and 25 beagles and assorted other dogs (impostors!).

The National Anti-Vivisection Society very kindly brought their giant inflatable beagle which attracted a lot of attention, especially from the children. We had stalls with information and Pat and Sue (long-time campaigners against HLS) sold toy beagles to boost SHAC funds. Relaxing music was played through the P.A. system all afternoon and Veggies provided delicious vegan food. The event attracted local press and television. The Anglia News camera team filmed beautiful happy healthy beagles walking past a huge banner which read 'Huntingdon Life Sciences would like to torture and kill these beagles.' Although this was a celebration day for these beagles' lives, the beagles we couldn't save were not forgotten. We didn't want anyone to forget that beagles were being killed at HLS while we all enjoyed the sunshine on Saturday April 8th on Parker's Piece in Cambridge.

There were hundreds of photographs taken that day and thousands of leaflets distributed to the public. Some passers-by stopped to say hello to the beagles, chat to campaigners and listen to the speeches.

There were four speakers. First of all Heather from SHAC thanked everyone for making it such a great day. She then recalled part of an interview with Michelle Rokke (U.S. undercover investigator at HLS) which brought home the horrors of what the beagles in the labs are forced to go through. (Read Michelle's account of her time inside HLS on page 10).

Next to speak was Chris Iles who spoke about his beloved 'Consort' beagle, Eddie and said a few words on his behalf: "Since leaving Consort I have destroyed: 2 televisions, 2 video recorders, a pair of curtains, 3 answer machines, 4 feet of wallpaper, 8 feet of carpet, a Yukka plant, two internal doors, books, leaflets and post on a daily basis, a patio door and the bum of the plumber who came in without MY permission."

The next speaker was Steve Beddard from the anti-vivisection group 'Countdown to Abolition.' Steve also has a 'Consort' beagle. Steve gave an excellent talk and also encouraged people to go to HLS and make their protest.

John Curtin gave an excellent speech about the beagles and the struggle for animal liberation. Hundreds of beagles owe their lives to John Curtin. John's been fighting on behalf of animals for many years and has been imprisoned himself many times for saving animals from a life of hell and certain death. As usual John spoke from the heart and emphasised that he could never understand how a human being could take a beautiful intelligent dog force a tube down her throat, watch her suffer and make her sick and then come back the next day and do it again and again and again.

Nobody from HLS made any comment on TV or in the press – well, what could they say?



NEW CAMPAIGN TARGETS SHAREHOLDERS

The last few weeks have seen the start of a new stage in the campaign against HLS - taking our message to the 1,700 individual shareholders in the company.

The BUAV Reform Group wrote to each shareholder, enclosing a copy of the SHAC factsheet. Appreciating that many individual shareholders would have made their investment purely on financial considerations, blissfully unaware of the cruelty they were inadvertently supporting, the letter was careful to make clear that we had no quarrel with any shareholder who, now they were aware of the facts, sold their investment.

24-hour protests

The letter gave shareholders two weeks to sell up, but warned that a "campaign tour" would follow, with surprise 24-hour protests outside the homes of those who had not sold by the deadline.

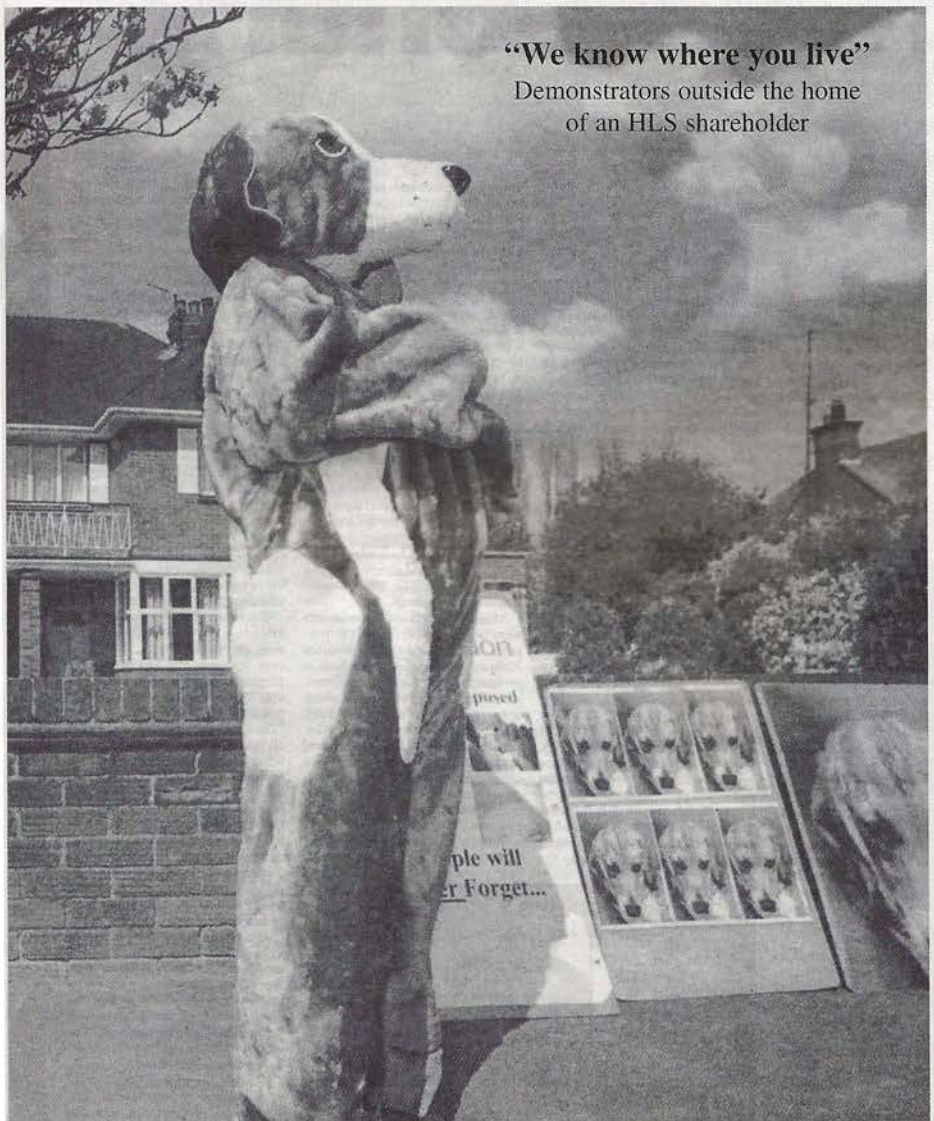
Even when feeling at our most optimistic, we could not have predicted the consequences of that letter. The press reaction, some of it on the front pages, can only be described as hysterical. Worried financial journalists warned our action could lead to a "new trend" in campaigning that could encourage all kinds of political groups to take similar action against all kinds of dodgy companies, with serious consequences for the City. We can only hope they're right...

The campaign attracted not just national but international news coverage for days. Media in France, Germany, Ireland, Finland and even South Africa covered the story.

Shares down 40%

Within 24 hours of the news breaking, Huntingdon's share price plummeted from 20p to 12p – wiping a full 40% off the value of the company. Huntingdon responded by writing to the Government, calling for the details of shareholders and directors to be kept confidential, and for a new police unit to deal with campaigners.

Any shareholder concerned by the original letter hardly received reassurance from HLS themselves. The company wrote to every investor, emphasising how seriously they were taking us and urging them to dial 999 at the first sign of protestors.



"We know where you live"
Demonstrators outside the home of an HLS shareholder

Upwards of 250 shareholders replied to the Reform Group letter, confirming they had sold in the region of a million shares between them. One elderly woman phoned SHAC in tears, saying she'd always been vegetarian and had no idea she had been supporting cruelty. Like many others, she was hugely grateful to have been enlightened and in fact the number of angry letters we received was in single figures.

The publicity, meanwhile, had only just started. With the first of the 24-hour protests, the dozen or so campaigners were easily outnumbered by reporters, photographers and camera men. David Braybrook, a retired businessman holding 20,000 shares, found himself plastered over the nation's press. After the umpteenth reporter had knocked on his door, he snapped, saying he was "more pissed off with all the media than with the protesters."

Other shareholders must have been taking note as the share price, which had managed a slight recovery, closed down 1.5p on the day – leaving Braybrook's shares worth £300 less by the end of the protest than they had been at the beginning!

"Blackmail"

The police were clearly at a loss as to how to act. While Cambridgeshire police appeared on BBC TV confirming that the campaign was lawful, some newspapers suggested the police were "investigating" the BUAV Reform Group, while

various police sources said that shareholders had complained to them after receiving the mailout.

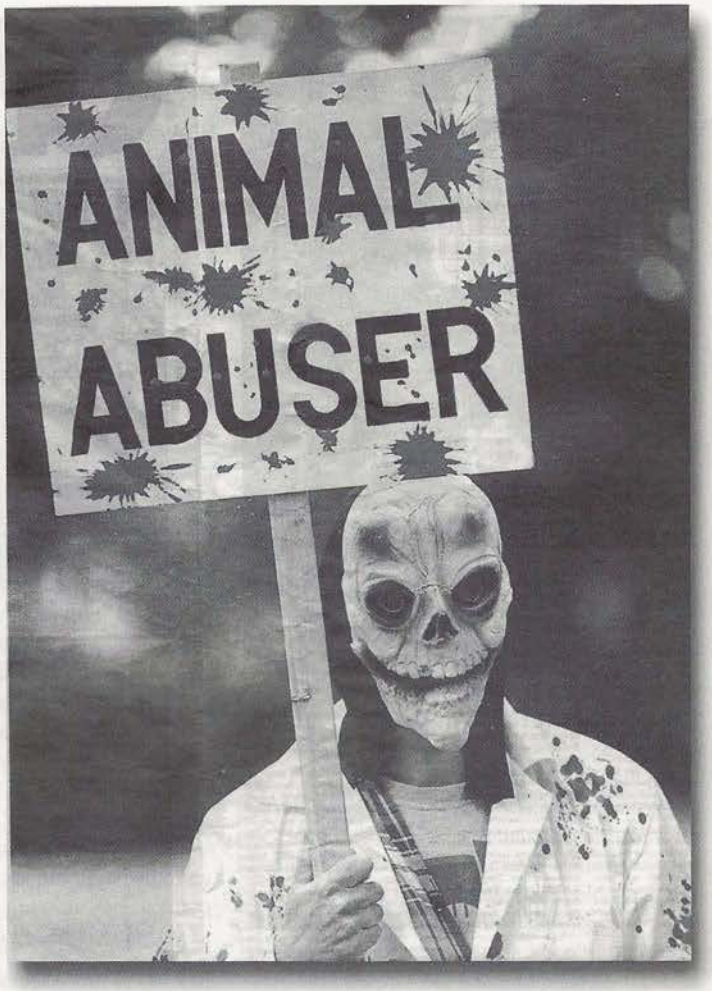
Some four weeks later, the author of the letters was arrested on suspicion of blackmail. Although his home and office were raided, he was released without charge and it seems clear that the police action was simply harassment and an attempt to intimidate campaigners into dropping the home visits.

If the campaign has worried them that much we must be doing something right, and we call on all SHAC supporters to respond by considering protests at the homes of their local shareholders or at least putting up "shareholder posters" (see merchandise page) to name and shame them in their communities.

Another protest has since been held outside the home of a West Sussex shareholder, making BBC TV News, and more are planned.

Public meetings

This stage of the campaign will be followed by a series of public meetings in towns and cities across the country. A list of such meetings is enclosed with this newsletter – please do your best to attend your nearest one. If enough people turn up to a meeting, local events in support of the campaign can be organised.



Primate Protection Group Condemns HLS



Kalie, one of the monkeys rescued by IPPL

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty recently sent a copy of the campaign video to the 'International Primate Protection League' (IPPL). The letter we received in reply is reprinted below:

Dear SHAC,

Thank you very much for sending me the video 'Huntingdon Life Sciences – The Truth'. I was appalled by what I saw. There was not one aspect of the technicians' behaviour or the facilities shown that could be considered even remotely acceptable. However, I will confine my comments to the primates.

The monkeys' caging was woeful: small box cages, with no enrichment, stacked on top of each other, with all the animals being singly housed. The stress and mental anguish this must inflict on social animals, like the macaques shown, is unimaginable. The manner in which the technicians handled the animals was also horrific. One monkey was *thrown* against the rear of its cage; on another occasion workers were seen screaming at a terrified, restrained macaque. Brutality such as this is completely intolerable. Worse still, it appeared one monkey was not dead, even though it was being autopsied.

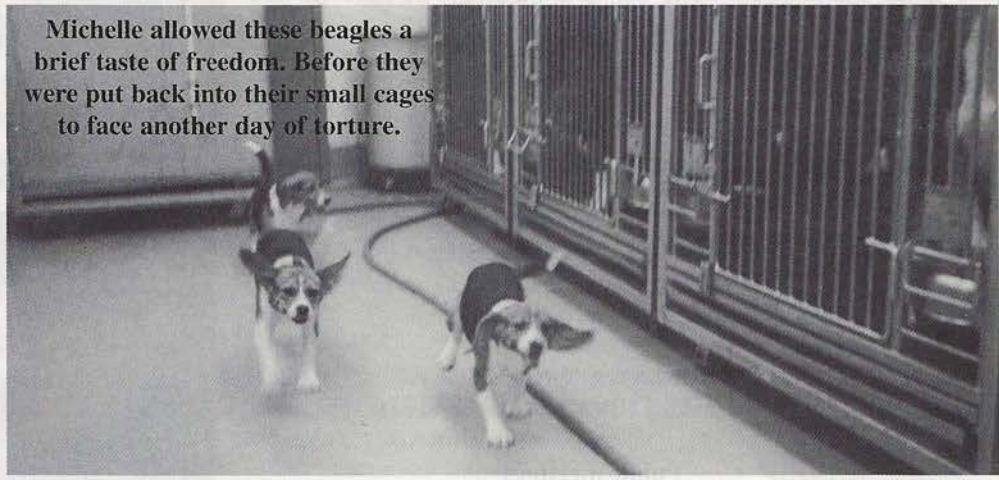
Having seen this footage, I remain more convinced than ever that if the general public knew the true horror of animal testing, it would be stopped. And it should be. There is no place in our society for facilities like Huntingdon's nor can we ethically continue to use primates in vivisection.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Brend
UK Representative for IPPL

I'VE SEEN HELL AND

The article that follows is written by Michelle Rokke who worked undercover for Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) inside HLS's lab in America. This is somebody who has seen the horrors of vivisection firsthand. Our job is to make sure everyone hears her story.

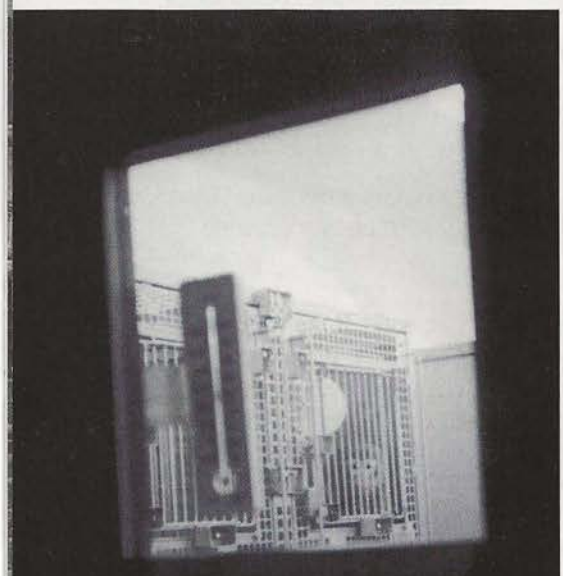


Michelle allowed these beagles a brief taste of freedom. Before they were put back into their small cages to face another day of torture.

A small hand reaches between the steel bars of a cage. A long gaze passes between us before the nimble fingers tug impatiently at the elastic of my cap. After just a few light touches, his gentle fingers combing through my hair and smoothing my eyebrow and touching my cheek, the soft cooing noises he makes turn to tortured screams. A loud thunk echoes as a paralysed body is slammed on the cold necropsy table. Nails scratch the metal surface as a chunk of skin is hacked off a twitching arm, leaving the vein exposed for an injection of lethal drugs. He's cut from chin to groin, the tattooed number no longer recognisable. His features twist and his little fist clenches with each cut of the knife. When his empty bloody skin is scraped into a waiting garbage bag and the statue in the white coat calls for the next monkey I wake up with a start. I tell myself it was just a dream. And then I remember it isn't a dream, it's a nightmare and it's not over yet...

In September of 1996 my life was irrevocably altered when I was hired as an Associate Technician at Huntingdon Life Sciences in East Millstone, New Jersey, USA.

After years as an undercover investigator for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and recently, other organisations, I've witnessed individual and industrialised abuse of animals over and over again. I've watched chickens being ripped apart after weeks of suffering in factory farms, soft fluffy kittens waiting their turn in a medical torture chamber, pregnant mares strapped to hard rubber urine bags for the production of Premarin, miserable 'pure-bred' dogs locked in tiny filthy puppy mills, and countless animals being hit, kicked, stabbed and choked. But, nothing prepared me for what I saw at Huntingdon Life Sciences.



Looking though the window. Michelle's first glimpse into a world of suffering and torture.

My job as an Associate Technician involved animal husbandry duties. I took care of dogs, rats, mice and monkeys—at least I kept their cages clean. If I had taken care of them, in the truest sense, I wouldn't have seen so many suffer and die in vain at HLS. I wouldn't still be seeing their faces in my sleep.

In addition to cleaning their cages, I held the animals down for dosing with all sorts of toxic substances. I scrubbed blood from the floor after unnecessary surgeries performed by inept, poorly trained employees. When chemicals were pumped into the animals—into their noses, mouths, skin, veins, stomachs and lungs, I recorded the effects and worried about their misery while others shrugged and walked away.

I learned that household cleaners, over-the-counter medicines that are already available by the dozens, agricultural products and 'wonder drugs' all make animals suffer and die at HLS. Elsewhere in the lab, sunscreens were poured on rabbits, while guinea pigs and pigs suffered through other useless tests.

It's no secret among lab employees that the tests are ridiculous and based on slop science. When one popular antihistamine was recalled, a senior technician laughingly asked "what did we do this time?" when the headline was pointed out. Standard jokes for 'wonder drugs' included, "It's either a cure for disease or a great weight loss drug?" and "Is this a cure or a rat poison?"

Even though I was sent into animal rooms to 'observe' the animals, I was usually told not to worry about their subsequent health problems after dosing and not to record them. One day when I asked a co-worker what the point of the tests were, I was told "Just because a drug has an affect on a dog it doesn't mean it's going to have that affect on a human." I was then told "the point of the testing is not to protect people, but to get the sponsor (the company paying for the tests) to bring return business back to the lab. The way to guarantee return business is to get the sponsor's drug on the market."

I worked at HLS for about eight months and was hired with minimal experience to clean cages, hold animals for dosing and help with surgeries. The training program often consisted of co-workers telling me how to do things the way they were supposed to be done and then showing me how to do them the way they are really done. Initially, this was in reference to using disinfectant in the cages and leaving the dogs in the cages when they were cleaned. Later, the flagrant disregard for the rules became much more serious. In one Proctor & Gamble study, primates were not given painkillers after deeply invasive abdominal surgery. In another, test results were wantonly and routinely skewed by employees' raucous bad behaviour. In a dog study, a beagle screamed and struggled in pain day after day when an oral gavage tube was shoved down his throat to deliver a substance that would never save a human life.

I was still working at HLS when my supervisor came back from a trip to the UK, right after Zoe Broughton's report "It's a Dog's Life" aired on television. He pulled me aside and told me an undercover report of HLS UK had been aired and it had created a lot of turmoil. I anticipated many changes at the US lab as a result of the expose and was shocked when no one made an effort to improve any of the inaccurate techniques that were being used. I was shocked that 'It's a Dog's Life' was not openly discussed and addressed as a training tool to prevent or stop similar atrocities from taking place in the US lab. I was shocked that animal welfare actually worsened during this period.

When I saw Zoe's report I shook my head in

IT'S CALLED HLS!

amazement at the mirror image of what we've both seen. While the dogs in the UK seem to have larger cages and more opportunity for exercise, most other circumstances seem identical. Falsified records, dosing errors, blatant animal cruelty, and a lack of regard for animal welfare. The careless attitude of HLS technicians as they handle animals and perform tests that are of no use to human beings is truly and thoroughly sickening.

Later, when I read Sarah Kite's report I was horrified to see that nothing had changed since her first investigation into HLS years before. The animal research system clearly does not work to help people, it only works to make animals sick. The vivisectors, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies and lab interests need the current fraud-based animal research system to keep the dollars rolling in. After witnessing bungle after bungle inside the locked doors of a laboratory, if the cure for AIDS or cancer or the unsightly bump at the end of Dr. Frankenstein's nose is ever found through animal research it will be a miracle.

The only answer, to ensure the safety of human beings and the welfare of animals, is to prohibit vivisection. To validate and use exclusively non-animal tests that are safer and more reliable. Obviously, this is something the vivisectors abhor, since data from slop science like animal tests can be easily manipulated to show the desired result. A US government study shows that over 50 percent of drugs are either re-labelled or recalled by the FDA after being used by human beings. The bottom line is, the first time any drug or product is used by people is the first time anyone really knows what will happen. All the testing before that point, all the suffering, all the dead animals tortured for profit and greed, only get an unknown substance on the market.

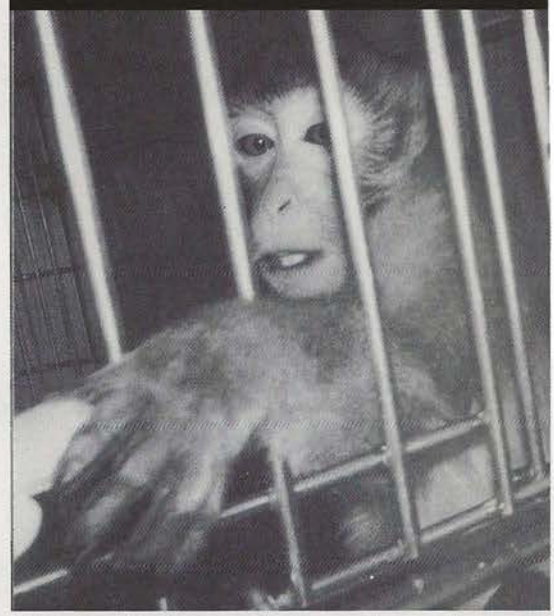
It's no exaggeration when I say I have nightmares about the animals I came to love at HLS. Other cases I worked on didn't allow me such an extended opportunity to know each victimised animal as an individual .

Each day I worked, I would hold snugly beagles in my arms and feel their damp noses on my neck. I would watch them struggle to scratch out of the 3 foot by 3 foot (roughly) steel cage they were locked in. I saw co-workers slap them, yell at them and swing them through the air by the scruff of the neck when they had to move them. I was continually chastised for picking the dogs up carefully, and holding them close when I carried them from the small 'home' cage to the 'exercise' cage (a larger cage the dogs were supposed to be put in for ten minutes a few times per week, but rarely were).

I can't help but picture my favourites when I see a beagle running in the park. I see their sad faces when I close my eyes. I wonder what Spud, Joey, The Major and Ellie would be like, running through the grass and being held and loved, instead of held down and hurt. When I see the beagle in the park roll on her back, the image that won't leave my head is of a beagle in the necropsy room throwing her head back and screaming as a knife entered her, slitting her throat.

A series of numbers instantly makes me recall a primate's tattoo. I see the finely textured skin of the macaques. I see their human-like fingernails and their little navels. I see them using their seldom supplied 'enrichment' mirrors, not to look at their own reflection, but to examine parts of a barren concrete room they have no chance to see. 'Each one has their own individual fingerprints' someone once told me. I don't know if this is true, but I do know that each of them look uniquely different, just like people. I know that if the fur and skin are torn off in a violent cage injury, the healed skin looks no different than a human beings'. A photo of a monkey's healing finger reveals this fact.

Michelle shows this monkey, James, his only experience of humanity in his short life



Of course this photo, and so many others will never be seen. When the dirty secrets of HLS US were revealed in 1997, it didn't take long for major companies who tested their products on animals at the lab to cry out in alarm. Not only was the sponsor company being exposed, for buying and allowing blatant animal abuse at a laboratory they contracted with , but also the useless and secret ritual of animal testing was being exposed again. Almost immediately HLS managed a federal gag order to keep the sham of animal research hidden from the public. They went to great lengths to ensure the public would not find out that animal testing does not protect people, that it only gets unsafe drugs and products on the market quickly and keeps them there.

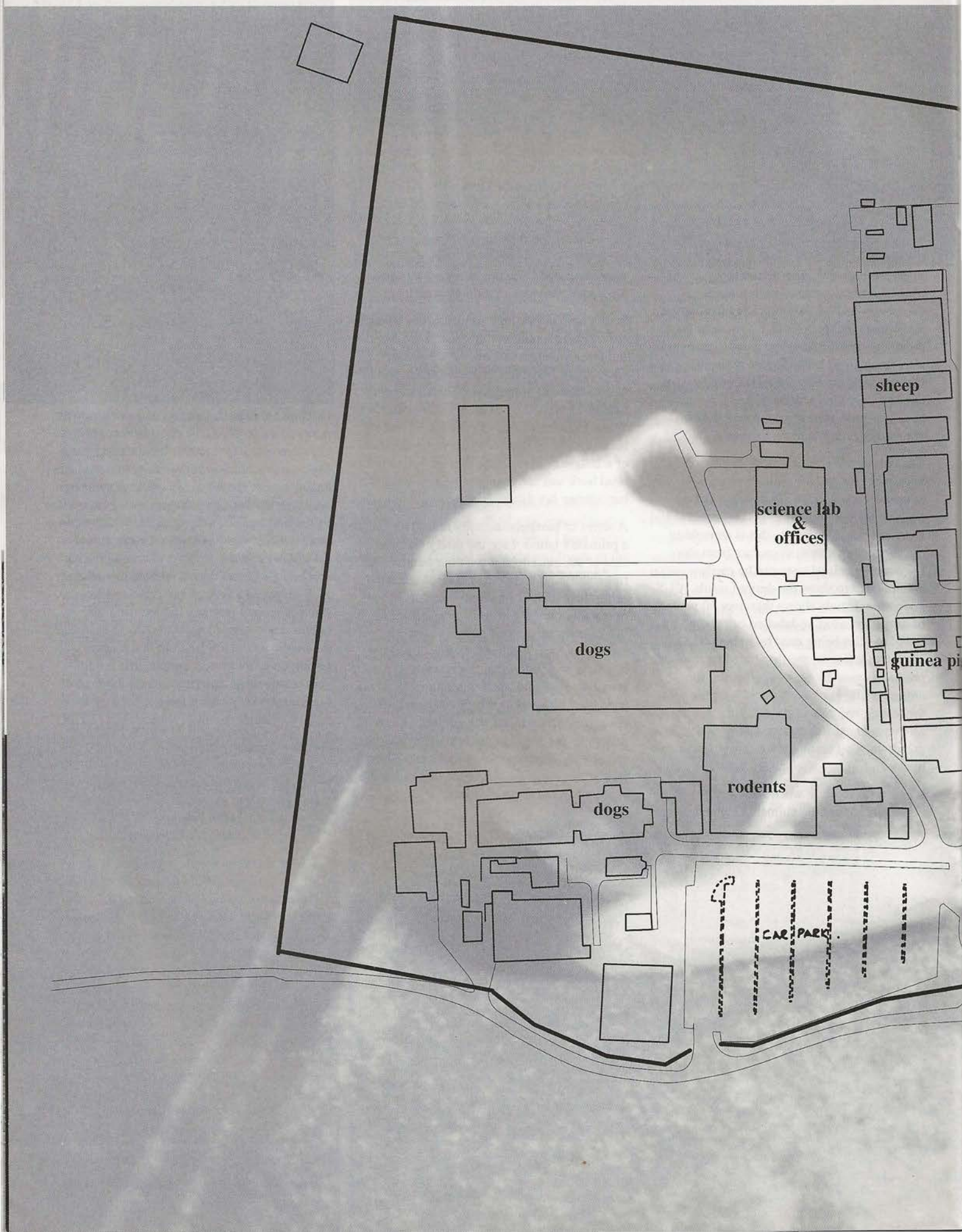
HLS sued PETA, Ingrid Newkirk, Marybeth Sweetland and myself under the pretext of a racketeering and trade secrets suit. Eventually we settled out of court, in part because of a legal system that can only be described as biased and the belief that most of the information had already been distributed.

Because of the settlement agreement with HLS I'm prevented from talking about a lot of the animal suffering I witnessed at HLS. Prevented from detailing tests and products and companies the public does have a right to know about. But I'm not prevented from telling the world that animal research is a sham. I've been there and I've seen it. Animal research is a crapshoot—a game of Russian roulette at best. At worst, animal research will kill our friends, human and non-human. It will keep our fathers ill and our sisters diseased. It will keep the scientists and the banks in business and put our mothers in early graves. It will never heal our brothers, our daughters, our sons. It will hurt our grandparents and keep the businessmen wealthy. Animal research compromises human safety and animal welfare. Animal research kills.

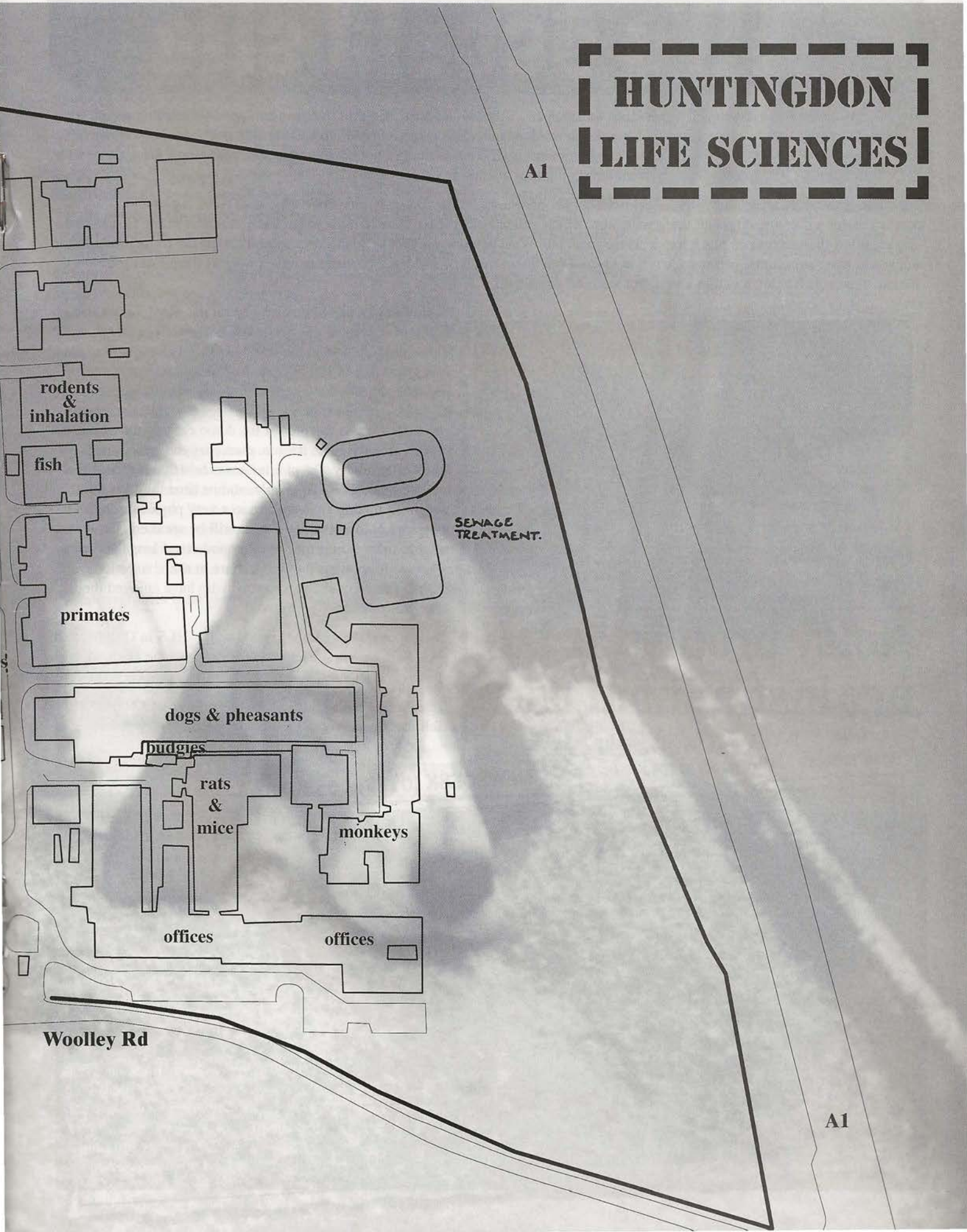
This sad beagle awaits another painful experiment before she is killed



NEXT TIME YOU GET IN, K



NOW WHAT TO HEAD FOR!



Campaign grows at HLS's Occold site

Since SHAC came into existence to target HLS, the company's profile has been raised in its true horror, and there are consequently few people left who haven't heard about what goes on at Alconbury. This is of course all good stuff: the main lab needs as much attention as it can get. However, we should spare a thought for HLS's more minor but equally repulsive operation taking place in the quiet Suffolk village of Occold, removed from the spotlight of attention.

Occold is a relatively small site with no real investment opportunities other than security since they were refused planning permission for a dog-breeding unit three years ago, which indicates that if HLS are looking to cut back, this will be the first to close - especially if they receive as much hassle as the main lab. What is more, the fact that HLS are currently applying for permission for a new and more substantial perimeter fence at Occold is a direct result of increased pressure in recent months from local protesters. We can close this lab down within a year, but we need some help.



LARGE POLICE PRESENCE: Police officers keep an eye on demonstrators at Occold HLS laboratory — Photograph: JAMIE NIBLOCK

Noisy protest at lab against animal use

by DAVE LENNARD

People at Occold 'fed up'

ritual slaughter of live sheep as a religious sacrifice at the weekend. The claim was immediately denied by G&A Barber, of Purleigh, which said all

DISS EXPRESS - Friday, March 24 2000

NEWSDESK (01379) 658018



Protesters make a point

MORE than 100 people with loud-hailers, placards and picnics turned up outside the laboratory at Occold on Sunday for a noisy but peaceful protest against animal experimentation.

Shadowed by almost 50 police officers, including police on dirt bikes and horses, the protesters heckled, chanted and waved banners for almost two hours outside the main gates to the Huntingdon Life Sciences laboratory, which employs about 350 people.

The protesters, including families, children, pensioners and dog-walkers, then marched through the village of Occold until they were turned back by police.

Pictured: Protesters outside the animal experimentation laboratory at Occold.

0003-250/34

While Occold may not exactly be on the way to anywhere, neither is it particularly inaccessible: the B1077 off the A140 takes you right past it, the relevant OS Landranger map is 156, grid ref. TM 153 703, so do pop by anytime - be spontaneous! On the other hand, if you would rather be a part of an actual event, we really need to get large numbers of people over to Occold for the demo coming up soon and if you can only make it once, please try to make it then. Unlike Alconbury, Occold has never hosted a National that totalled more than 300 people, and its time they too felt the weight of feeling against them in a very physical sense. If all goes according to plan, there will be speakers, but if you want to bring a megaphone or a good set of lungs you can voice your opinions on HLS's share in the vivisection industry directly to the company, who have enjoyed their anonymity for a long time.

For the next demo at the main gates of HLS in Occold, near Eye, Suffolk, see the enclosed calendar, come along in droves and let's wake this lab up with a jolt. See you there!

Telephone HLS's Occold site now on 141 01379 644122. Tell them what you think about their disgusting trade.

SHAC GOES INTERNATIONAL

There is no escaping SHAC activists. Huntingdon Life Sciences hoped to escape us by holding their Extraordinary General Meeting in New York. No such luck I'm afraid. Four SHAC activists had their flights paid for by very kind people (thankyou) and on the 21st March 2000 flew to New York ready for the meeting on 22nd March. We met up with American activists who accommodated us for the whole of our stay and made us very welcome.

There was no time to marvel at the skyscrapers or see the Statue of Liberty, there was a lot to do in our stay in just under a week.

The EGM was held at the offices of Goodwin, Proctor and Hoar, 599 Lexington Avenue, 40th Floor, New York, NY10022 at 10am New York time.

The purpose of the EGM was to try and borrow £75 million.

We met up on Lexington Avenue with our American friends. We were all dressed up smart and business-like and armed with pages of questions. We had no idea who else would be at the meeting. As it turned out we outnumbered everybody else. There was just a handful of other shareholders. Before we were allowed into the meeting room we were all searched! I mean all the decent, caring human beings were!



Heather James interviewed by CNN

Present at the meeting were Joe Dowling (Non-Executive Director of HLS) and Mark Bibi (Corporate Lawyer to HLS). The vote was passed in favour by 99% (no surprise there).

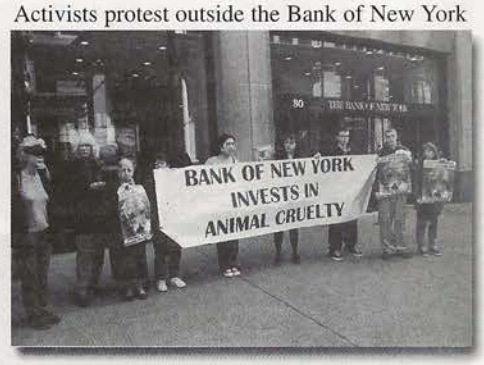
Then we started our questioning and Joe Dowling appealed to us to keep the meeting civilised, which is rich coming from anyone involved with the torture and death of thousands of animals every year.

We proceeded to ask our questions which were greeted with "I don't know" or "I can't answer that question" etc. etc. Pathetic! While we were making our presence felt in New York, activists in the UK were creating mayhem at the HLS site in Huntingdon (see report below).

Over the next few days we targetted shareholders in New York. Our first demo being at the Bank of New York at Number 1, Wall Street, New York. About 12 demonstrators turned up with a big banner and leaflets to hand out to customers. Reuters worldwide news service and CNN turned up to film and do interviews with us. Apparently to get TV coverage in New York is normally very difficult. The reaction from the public was mainly one of horror and some said they would close their accounts.

We also had a very successful demonstration at Oracle Partners. First of all Heather James got past security and into the lift up to the 45th floor and

Activists protest outside the Bank of New York



confronted Oracle Partners staff and gave them a copy of the video and a factsheet. Later on an American activist got inside and leafletted nearly all of the other offices in the building with an excellent response.

The highlight of the trip was on our last day when we met Michelle Rokke and video tapped a two hour long interview with her.

Michelle is the person who spent eight months working undercover in HLS labs (see article page 10).

She sent this message to all of you who are fighting to close down HLS:

"Well, I'm just so relieved that people in the UK have taken up the fight to stop HLS. The animals that I saw, they are still there, they have different names and they have different faces, but the monkeys that are being killed today, they are James. It just has to stop, so keep fighting and do everything you can to get those animals out of the labs!

I am encouraged to think that with everyone's effort the animals that I came to know and love during my time at HLS, James, Spud, Ellie and Joey will not have died in vain."

Huntingdon Life Sciences called an Extraordinary General Meeting in New York on 22nd March to change their company statutes to be able to borrow £75 million pounds – hardly the sign of a flourishing company! While some activists went to the EGM in New York, about twenty others turned up at HLS's headquarters on Woolley Road and had a really effective day showing the animal killers and those who profit from this evil business just what we all think of them.

A few climbed trees overlooking the new wooden fence and spent several hours blasting the workers with megaphones, while another activist scaled the perimeter fence and got into the compound. The police had to cut through several rolls of razor wire to arrest her. She was later released without charge.

The demo remained loud and angry throughout the day, and while demonstrators holding shares in Huntingdon Life Sciences went in to inspect the books others kept the pressure up on the gates. Despite the fact that in the EGM documents it stated that shareholders should have access until 5pm, at 4pm HLS security guards and the police refused to let any more shareholders in.

The demo hotted up as shareholders demanded access and were forcibly removed by security guards and police. At this point workers attempted to leave the site, but were prevented from doing so and had to sit in their cars for half an hour listening to just what we think of people who abuse and torture animals for a living.

When they eventually drove out all hell broke loose with demonstrators standing in front cars and everyone shouting. The noise was deafening and the animal killers looked quite shaken. This demo was highly effective and showed what can be achieved with only 20-30 people. These demonstrations need to happen as often as possible in order to really put the pressure on HLS and show them we mean business, so please make every effort to support the daily pickets. Give us a ring and let us know when you can come – see you there!

HOME OFFICE - LIES,

Thanks to the SHAC supporters who have written to the Home Office about the unacceptable situation of HLS being allowed to continue. Unfortunately it seems from the replies forwarded to SHAC that the Home Office are not treating this with the attention it demands.



The standard letters the Home Office are sending out generally include the claim that vivisection can't be stopped "without halting important areas of medical and scientific research." Why this means HLS is allowed to continue is a mystery, as no-one is even claiming that tests on oven cleaners, food additives, disinfectants, weedkillers and fertilisers are anything to do with 'medical and scientific research.' Product testing is an area the Home Office has failed to acknowledge, but one we haven't forgotten.

HLS is keen to claim that much of their research is into pharmaceutical products, but this is still a million miles away from medical research. The overwhelming majority of drugs tested on animals are copycat drugs – drugs aiming for a slice of the market already satisfied by existing drugs, so these products are clearly for profit alone.

The Home Office go on to claim that "regulatory bodies also require that products, ingredients and chemicals be tested to ensure they are safe" – and so they should be. But what has this got to do with animal testing? The massive differences between humans and animals make such tests totally pointless. How are rat tests going to show if a food ingredient will, for example, make you vomit, or will damage your spleen – when rats can't vomit and have no spleen? According to animal tests arsenic and strychnine are safe to eat. If they can make such colossal mistakes, how can we rely on them for safety testing? History is full of cases where cancer causing substances are passed safe on animals, drugs causing birth defects are passed as safe, useful medicines are thought to be useless or dangerous, and even animal tests are deliberately disregarded, as their uselessness is accepted by the experimenters! Even the previous Scientific Executive of HLS admitted that animals correctly predict the adverse effects applicable to humans in 5-25% of cases. That's so ineffective that even flipping a coin would be more accurate!

This is recognised at the highest level of government. Chris Wardle MP, who is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Home Office confirms "There is no European Community or United Kingdom law which states that drug companies have to test their products on animals." Safety testing? Yes. Animal testing? No.

Another proud claim is that the UK "supports the European method for the Validation of Alternative Methods", which looks at non-animal methods. It's a pity no such body has been set up to examine the claims that it's scientifically possible to use animals for these tests, because it would soon come to the conclusion that they can't!

But even when superior non-animal methods are developed and made available, they're not used. Ten years ago the head of one of Europe's most well-known animal labs wrote that there were over 450 non-animal methods with which we can replace animal experiments. Now there are more, but they're not used. In the SHAC newsletter no. 3, just a few of these were outlined in an article which explained there were 68 test tube methods to cover toxicology, the basis of HLS's animal use. The problem is that they're not used.

Labs have justified the use of animals when non-animal methods exist, due to reasons as trivial as "cost, time and effort." The test tube method which meant animals were not necessary to produce monoclonal antibodies (which are used in cancer research) was available in 1989. By 1991 even the vivisector's lobby group, the RDS, were calling it "simpler, faster, and cheaper than those involving animal use," but still it was not used. There are hundreds more examples, but animal use is permitted despite the availability of scientific methods. For many experiments where superior non-animal methods are available no effort is made to justify them as the only body with the power to request justification is the Home Office, who don't seem to be interested.

For the Home Office to refer to the legislation currently in use as "the most rigorous piece of legislation of it's type in the world" would be laughable if it were not so serious. Since 1989 over a dozen labs have been investigated by undercover researchers, and ALL were found to be showing shocking conditions which the law had failed to prevent. Many of the most serious conditions involving animal suffering and misuse had been seen by Home Office Inspectors who had failed to take action. The 1986 Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act does not enforce minimum standards of any kind and takes no action against cruelty. When two senior staff at HLS were caught on film punching dogs they were not prosecuted under the 1986 Act! Their prosecution was under a law dating back to 1911!

The claim that this legislation requires detailed consideration of alternatives and technology is soon dismissed by the constant discovery of experiments which



LIES AND MORE LIES

have not been subjected to this. How else would animals die at the rate of over 500 a day at HLS when non-animal methods exist in their hundreds and the animal methods have a decades-long track record of repeated failure?

Finally, the Home Office are claiming they have made advances. Unfortunately these are not as positive as they sound.

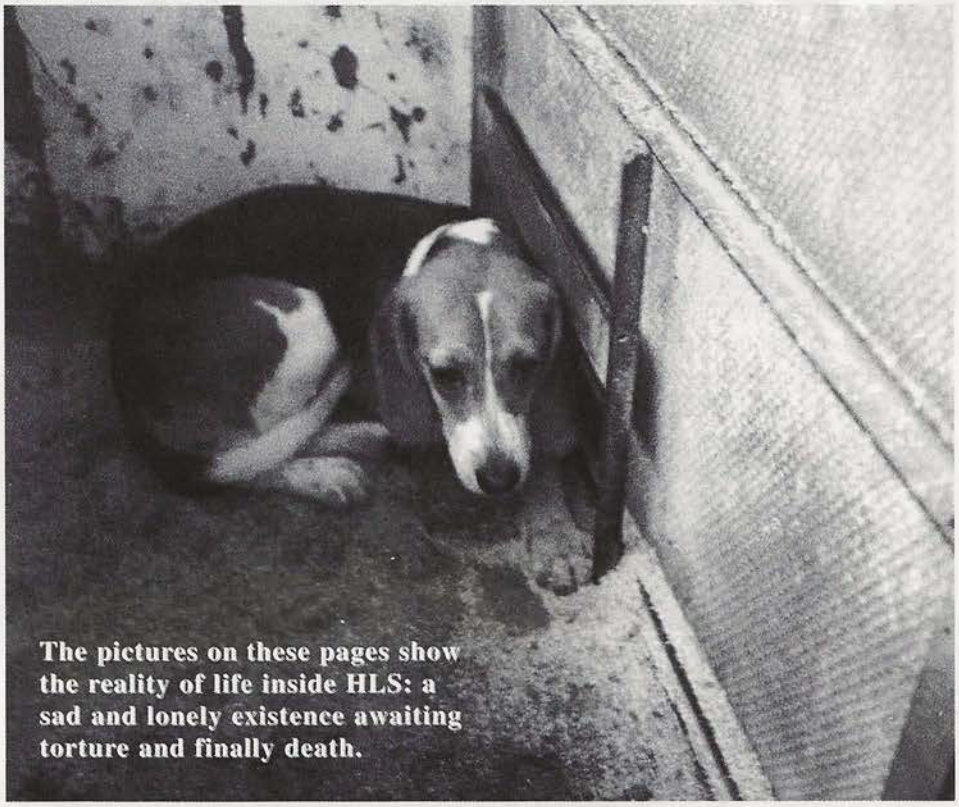
The claim that this government have "banned cosmetic testing" on animals is wrong. We welcome the fact that there is currently none going on, but a licence to do this could be offered tomorrow. The ending of finished cosmetic product testing on animals is seen in perspective as it saved in a year about 1% the number of animals who are killed as surplus to requirements EACH DAY!

Tobacco testing on animals is another area claimed to be finished, but again it just meant a lack of current licences. Since the claim was made, more licences to test tobacco on animals have been issued – so the tests continue.

The number of Home Office inspectors has been increased to 21. This system does not work. They didn't stop the dog beating or the serious welfare problems at any of the three HLS investigations, or in any of the other ten or so UK labs subjected to undercover investigations since 1989. It's an important point that some of the most extreme cases of misconduct have been filmed over a time when inspectors have been present but have not done anything.

Even with the best will to do their job, there are too few inspectors. In 1998 there were 2,593,587 animal experiments. If all the inspectors worked every day, including weekends and bank holidays, with no time off, they would have to see over 337 experiments EVERYDAY, as well as their other duties of processing applications for experimental licences and offering advice and help to experimenters. Even if they did enforce some kind of standards – this would be impossible.

The ban on the use of Great Apes (gorillas, chimpanzees and orang-utans) is no advance. They haven't been used since the 1970s. Perhaps the Home Office will also claim the credit for children not being sent up chimneys to clean them as they used to in Victorian times.



The pictures on these pages show the reality of life inside HLS: a sad and lonely existence awaiting torture and finally death.

They even proudly claim "the use of animals in certain forms of monoclonal antibodies is being phased out." Remember – a superior method was available years ago, and now "certain forms" are being "phased out"!

Their claims of "immediate and strong action" following the "Countryside Undercover" program are hollow. They should never have allowed the terrible findings to occur. It was their use of ineffective legislation and a useless system of policing labs which enabled the various serious breaches including the infamous dog punching. Two years later the system of enforcement is fundamentally the same one of vivisectors policing themselves and there is nothing to indicate to us that conditions have improved.

The root causes remain. A law which does not make it a criminal offence to keep a monkey in a mouse cage is being referred to as "rigorous." No-one has ever been prosecuted under vivisection-based legislation for cruelty, waste of life or waste of taxpayers money despite a catalogue of proven malpractice over the last ten years which makes exaggeration of the suffering and irrelevance of animal experiments impossible.

Animal experiments are defended or ignored as convenient by successive weak Home Offices backed by governments of different parties who share a common lack of strength to even consider their responsibilities. Their replies to our serious, well-considered concerns are not worth the paper they are printed on.

We win every argument because we are right. We win every battle because we are right. It may be intimidating to see a powerful organisation like the UK Home Office rally round to support the evil of HLS, but remember – it is them that will be a disgrace when we have finished Huntingdon, and it is them who are joining a losing side as more people inevitably discover the truth that animal experiments are neither humane nor medically relevant. They cannot justify supporting arguments which do not stand up to basic questioning. We must make them regret their decision to stand firmly on the side of the vicious, unjustifiable, unregulated world of the vivisectors.

Now is the time to dig in for a strong position. Read all the information a hundred times if you need to – but learn the facts. Make time every day to fight against HLS until they give in. Closing HLS is a massive job but together we can do it.

by Chris Iles

ON THE TRAIL OF THE PRIMATE DEALERS

In the last newsletter we reprinted the Mail on Sunday's exposé of the HLS baboon dealer Richard Mann, who was reported in the Mail on Sunday a week later as having closed down but extreme caution is needed. This may be a temporary measure or he may have moved. Another possible supplier of wild caught baboons is the Kenyan State run Institute for Primate Research. British tourists are the mainstream of Kenyan tourism and the Kenyan government cannot run the risk of a tourist boycott.

The South African connection

We know that HLS is increasingly looking to South Africa as a baboon source.

The MRC's animal unit at Delft (near Cape Town, South Africa) is planning to build a breeding and holding station to supply international commercial contract laboratories, including dealers. Investigations uncovered that they are initially planning to bring in 300 wild-caught baboons from Kenya but the figure could be as high as 1000. It is also an expensive undertaking - the estimated cost to get the facility started is 2.5 million Rand - money that can be better spent on preventative health care programmes in South Africa.

Pictured right is the existing unit at Delft/Blue Downs, where baboons are quarantined for internal use.

Trappers use baited traps in crates and the baboons may be left in these crates without food or water for days on end. Baboons that are old, pregnant or too thin are killed at this stage because they do not meet the requirements for research laboratories. The remaining animals are held in holding stations where mortality rates are alarming. In South Africa members of South Africans for the Abolition of Vivisection (SAAV) filmed a holding station near Vaalwater in the North-Western Transvaal owned by Mr Erich Venter, telephone (0027) 14-7553 793. Here monkeys were found in overcrowded gang wire cages - some were dead. The distress of the animals was clearly visible.

In South Africa pictures of the chacma baboon are used to promote tourism but in reality these animals are facing slow eradication and their survival hangs in the balance. Ironically baboons and vervet monkeys are classified as "problem animals" which means the law offers them no protection and they are indiscriminately poisoned, shot or trapped for use in research laboratories with the official sanction of Nature Conservation.

Baboons are highly social animals and each baboon, like every human, has its own individual character. In times gone by baboons lived in troops comprising 120 members. Nowadays the average size of a troop is between 30 and 40 and they are under serious threat. Baboons can live up to 45 years but because of the difficult circumstances in which they live in the wild, their average lifespan is only 10 to 12 years. The killing of the big males results in chaos and disorder within the troop.



DELFT MRC SITE PLAN

Money not science: A lucrative and inhumane trade

The planned facility at Delft is first and foremost a commercial venture. Breeding baboons for the international vivisection industry is a profitable business. It is estimated that a single baboon can fetch between $1500 and $2000.

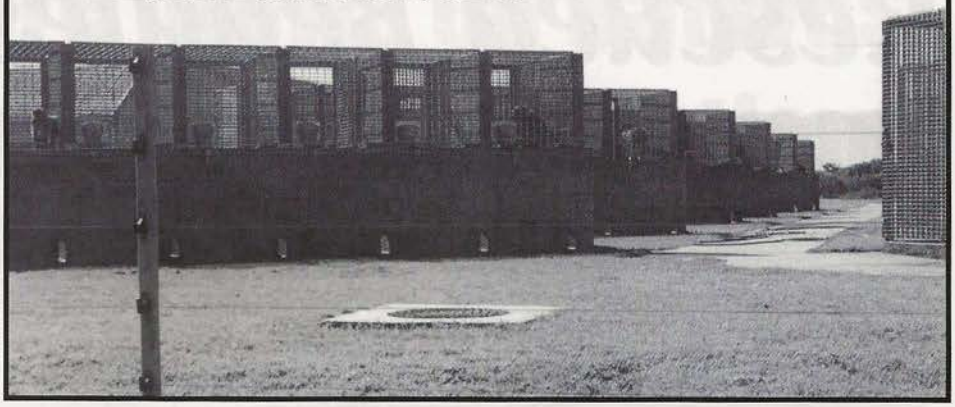
The vivisection industry would like you to believe that captive breeding means that the baboons suffer less. But the truth is that whether a baboon is captive bred in semi-social conditions or caught in the wild they suffer enormously in laboratory conditions. The sad fact is that they are destined for a solitary, miserable, stressful and confined existence. In these labs they are often kept in conditions that would be unacceptable and illegal even in the worst of zoos.

The misery of life in a laboratory

Once the baboons reach the laboratories they can die of enteritis and pneumonia or they are killed because they are deemed to be "unusable". If they are judged "useable" they will be experimented on until they die either as a result of the experiment itself or when the experiment reaches its conclusion the animal is killed.

They are placed in small, single cages (usually 1m x 1m) and are only given pellets to eat. For baboons, who are used to foraging for a wide variety of food and covering at least 5 to 8 kilometres a day, conditions in the laboratories mean misery and torment. They are invariably caged out of touch and sometimes even out of sight and hearing of their fellows. Their movement is greatly restricted, and they undergo invasive and often painful experimentation. All of this results in massive physical and emotional stress.

The existing baboon quaratine facility at Delft



What you can do:

We can put real and positive pressure on Kenya and South Africa. Please write to <u>all</u> the addresses below and use the fax numbers. Please mention that you feel unable to invest in their country or visit as a tourist until they cease all links with the primate trade.

The Director
Nehemiah Rotich
Kenya Wildlife Service
PO Box 40241
Nairobi
Kenya
Fax: 00254 2505866 or 2501752
E-mail: kws@kws.org

Minister of Environment (Kenya)
Hon. Francis Nyenze
PO Box 49720
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: 00254 2 71 6103

Dr Richard Leakey
Office of the President
PO Box 30510
Nairobi
Tel: 00254 2 22 7411

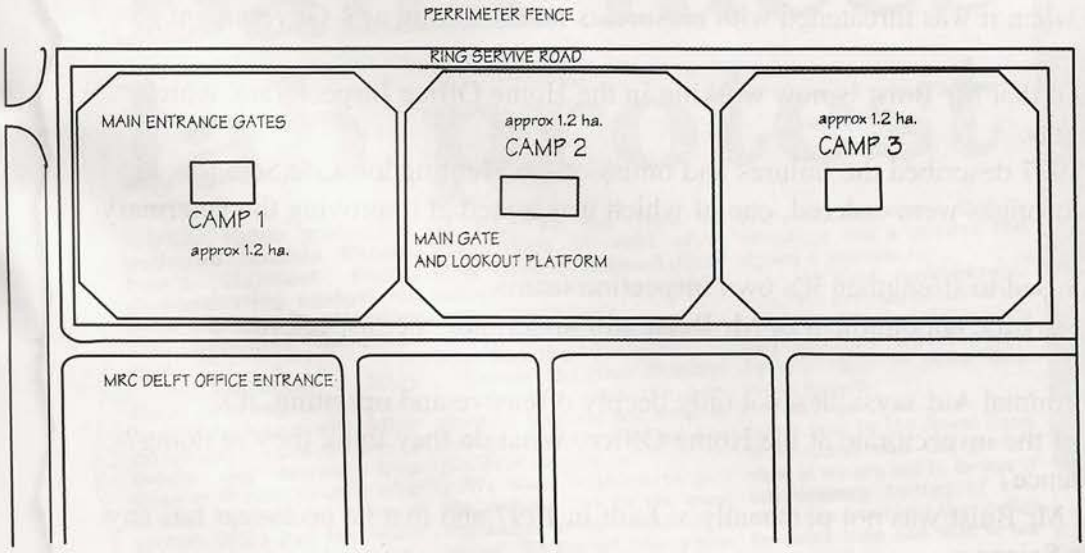
Kenyan Tourist Office
Brooks Mews
London
W1
Tel: 020 73553144

Kenyan Embassy
45 Portland Place
London
Tel: 020 7637271

South African Embassy
South Africa House
Trafalgar Square
WC2
Tel: 020 74517299

South African Tourist Board
5 Alt Grove
London
Tel: 020 897 9350

Minister of Environmental Affairs (SA)
Mr Valli Moosa
Private Bag X884
Pretoria 0001
South Africa
Fax: 002721 461 5838



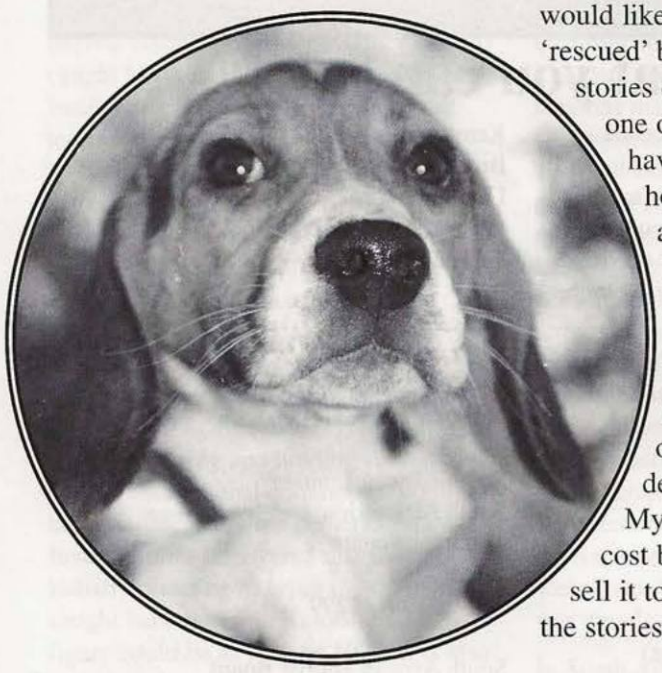
MRC DELFT BABOON BREEDING CORAL
locality plan

Western Cape MEC for
Environmental
and Cultural Affairs
Glen Adams
Private Bag X9043
Cape Town 8000
South Africa
Tel: 002721 483 3911 .

MRC President
Dr Malegapuru W. Makgoba
PO Box 19070
Tygerberg
South Africa
7505
Tel: 002721 938 0211
e-mail:
malegapuru.makgoba@mrc.ac.za
Tell him you are horrified to hear of the MRC's plan. Ask him to put an end to this centre.

Rescued Beagles...

I was involved in the rescue of the first 50 beagles to come out of that hell-hole 'Consort.' I was one of the people that drove to Consort to bring home those beautiful dogs whose future otherwise would have been torture and death. I helped with the homing of around 50 beagles and now I would like some help from all of you who have adopted them.



I want to be adventurous and put together a collection of the stories and tribulations of these dogs. I would like anyone who has a 'rescued' beagle to send me their stories of what it is like to take on one of these dogs and how they have settled into life in a home where they are loved and cared for. What was it like for you when you first saw your beagle start to play and enjoy life? How long did it take you to toilet train it? How much of your house did it destroy?

My intention is to put a low cost booklet together and then sell it to others so they can read the stories for themselves (you will need a box of tissues when you read some of the stories). I often hear people say "I wonder what happened to those beagles." With your help I can let them know. I will put ALL the monies received from the sale of the book into SHAC, the sooner this shit-hole closes the better!

If you would like to send me your beagle story you can either send it to me, Pat, [redacted]

Personal details removed

Personal details removed

Or you can e-mail to:

Personal details removed

It does not have to be a Consort beagle,it can be any rescued beagle. When I have it all together I will be advertising it in various animal welfare publications and I will also keep you informed of the amount I have raised from it's sale.

Thanks in anticipation,

Pat

Government Inspector worked for HLS

We all know that the Home Office Inspectors are a complete waste of time but this following press release proves it. How can the Home Office say that the person who used to be a vet for HLS now has no links with the place. He must have had many friends in HLS and he's hardly likely to report a friend of his if he did observe any misdemeanours.

BBC Press Release:

David Buist, the veterinary surgeon who worked at the controversial vivisection laboratory, Huntingdon Life Sciences when it was threatened with closure, is now working as a Government Inspector.

Southern Eye has discovered that Mr Buist is now working in the Home Office Inspectorate, which supervises animal experiments.

A home Office Inquiry in 1997 described the failures and omissions at Huntingdon Life Sciences as 'extremely serious.' Major changes were ordered, one of which was aimed at improving the veterinary supervision.

The Home Office also promised to strengthen it's own inspection teams.

Animal rights campaigners say the appointment of Mr Buist will undermine the inspectorate's credibility.

Andrew Tyler, Director of Animal Aid says: "It's not only deeply offensive and upsetting, it's absolutely crass on behalf of the inspectorate at the Home Office. What do they think they're doing? How does this build confidence?"

The Home Office says that Mr Buist was not personally at fault in 1997 and that he no longer has any links with Huntingdon Life Sciences.

The pressure grows on NatWest and The Royal Bank of Scotland

You have now distributed a staggering ONE MILLION NatWest leaflets since the start of the campaign just six months ago. The response to the NatWest campaign has been overwhelming with hundreds of people writing in and phoning us, horrified by the bank's involvement with Europe's biggest animal torture laboratory and telling us they have closed down their accounts in disgust

Remember without the £24.5 million loan HLS would have closed already and thousands of animals would have been spared, SO LETS TURN THE PRESSURE UP!

NatWest demos are taking place all over the country throughout the week – call us if you'd like to get in touch with your local group and take part or order some leaflets and organise your own protest.

On March 6th the NatWest Bank was taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS). Since that date thirty five thousand animals have been coldly and callously tortured inside HLS with the help of NatWest and RBS's £24.5 million loan.

For the animals sake we need to really turn the pressure up on NatWest and RBS from now until the review date for the loan in August. If we hammer NatWest and RBS branches all summer we are confident that they will see sense and realise any involvement with HLS is far more trouble than it's worth.





Protest: Dawn Parkes of ALS outside NatWest *Picture by STUART LLOYD* 00 141 118a

Protesters call for funding to stop

ANIMAL rights protesters backed the staged a demonstration out

Animal rights demonstration at NatWest

Bank faces lab protest

ANIMAL rights protesters gathered outside Shoreham's NatWest Bank, demonstrating against its links with the Huntingdon Life Sciences laboratories.

Shoreham-based Mary Green stood outside the bank's East Street branch with fellow campaigners and Henry, a beagle dog rescued from Consort Beagle Kennels after it shut following a storm of protest. Mary and her fellow protesters are demanding NatWest sever its ties with HLS, the largest animal contract laboratory in Europe.

She said the NatWest funded HLS to the tune of £24.5million in 1998 after other backers removed their support following an undercover investigation.

'We feel they should not have done this,' she said.

'Because the other financial backers had seen the programme they did not want to fund it so they backed out and NatWest stepped in.

'We want NatWest to pull out and say "we do not want anything to do with this group". We are not telling people to "do this and do that", we just want to make them aware of what their bank is doing.'

Mary added passers-by had been very supportive of their campaign and a number had signed a petition.

A NatWest spokeswoman said, 'We are very aware of the strength of feeling of this issue and we fully accept people have a right to make their views known.

'NatWest has just been taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland and the group's view is we are not in favour of unnecessary testing of animals. We have had that policy for some time and that is not changing.'

The bank's financial relationships with its customers were confidential.



■ HAPPY HENRY: Mary Green with rescued dog Henry

Campaigners storm Bank of New York

Eleven determined and well prepared SHAC activists travelled on the Northern line to Bank – in the heart of the city of London. We weren't wearing HLS T-shirts, combat trousers and para-boots but blended in well with the other passengers wearing suits and ties.

Our target had already been picked – The Bank of New York (BNY), 67 Lombard Street, London Telephone 0171 5701784. BNY has over 41 million shares in HLS and is one of the biggest shareholders.

Two by two we strode confidently through the open doors, took a left and made for the metal barriers. It wasn't until we had leapt over or dived under the barrier that the security guard suddenly took notice and shouted "Oi", it was too late, we were in!

We ran up the stairs, passed the slightly confused BNY staff, and made for the first empty room we could find – which happened to be the Board Room.

We locked the door behind us and quickly barricaded ourselves in with a huge solid wooden table and about 20 chairs. Stickers and posters covered the windows and walls. The windows unfortunately were screwed shut but someone managed to open it so that we could shout to passers-by on the megaphone. We could see through an internal window that large numbers of police were gathering in the office outside. Meanwhile we were busy ringing the press and doing interviews.

One of our group entered into conversation over the next two and half hours with the 'hostage negotiator.'

We told him that we had one demand and that was to speak with senior management, and to show them the HLS video and ask them to justify their investment in a company with such an horrific record of animal cruelty. There was a lengthy process of negotiation, with us tape recording a guarantee from the 'hostage negotiator' that if two of us came out to meet with the Executive Vice-President of BNY, they would NOT storm the room. We were told that a room had been set downstairs for a meeting. We said that two of us would come out and the remaining nine would come out after the meeting.

Not surprisingly, what happened was quite different!

Myself and another activist stepped out of the room and seeing the door safely locked and barricaded behind us, we proceeded to walk through the office, as we did so a number of police officers, plain clothes and uniformed raced forward and grabbed us saying we were under arrest for 'burglary'!!

The BNY office was almost empty of BNY employees but there were police everywhere including two very friendly german shepherds. I turned to look back at the room where our friends were and saw what can only be described as 15 'stormtroopers' with a huge battering ram! Led by a five foot female weightlifter frothing at the mouth. The maniacs proceeded to demolish the door. They hammered on the door until the whole doorframe gave way along with part of the wall and bricks rained down. The table, which was undamaged by us, was snapped in half by the police.

When they got in they proceeded to throw the chairs all over the room. The activists just stood against the wall to avoid injury and stared in amazement. Police continued with their demented behaviour and screamed at them constantly.

Quite a crowd had gathered outside and they were almost all city workers. As each protester was led out handcuffed they shouted to the crowd "This is what you get if you invest in Huntingdon Life Sciences – it could be your offices next."

Then there was the usual rigmarole at the police station which ended with not one of the eleven being charged with any offence.

The Bank of New York on the other hand, received lots of bad publicity for their involvement with HLS, lost hours of business time (all their phones had to be left of the hook) and had part of their offices demolished courtesy of the police! What a result!!

We need YOU

We urgently need sympathetic people to help out the campaign. If you fit into any of the following categories then we be grateful if you could contact the campaign:

- People who work for NatWest bank and have access to their internal intranet
- Sympathetic employees of the Royal Bank of Scotland
- People with a knowledge of the city who can provide us with any information on HLS or any of their major shareholders
- Doctors, vets and scientists willing to condemn Huntingdon Life Sciences
- Graphic designers and artists with novel ideas

Appeal for Witnesses

Ref: PH

A man (pictured below) wearing a green barbour and black trousers was arrested on World Day (22nd April) at 3pm on the embankment by the farm building. If you look at the HLS site from Woolley Road, then the farmbuilding is to the furthest left corner of the site.

He was grabbed and pushed to the ground. If you can provide any further photographs, video footage or a witness statement please send it to the campaign, quoting reference PH.



Shamrock Farm - March 10th 2000



Shamrock Farm - May 2nd 2000



After 15 months of determined campaigning, the notorious monkey prison Shamrock Farm closes down and the bulldozers move in. HLS is next!

These beagles were killed by Huntingdon Life Sciences



"Angel"



"Spud"



"Bud"



"Ellie"

For the animals that remain inside HLS your sadness and tears mean nothing. The only thing that can help them is <u>ACTION</u>.