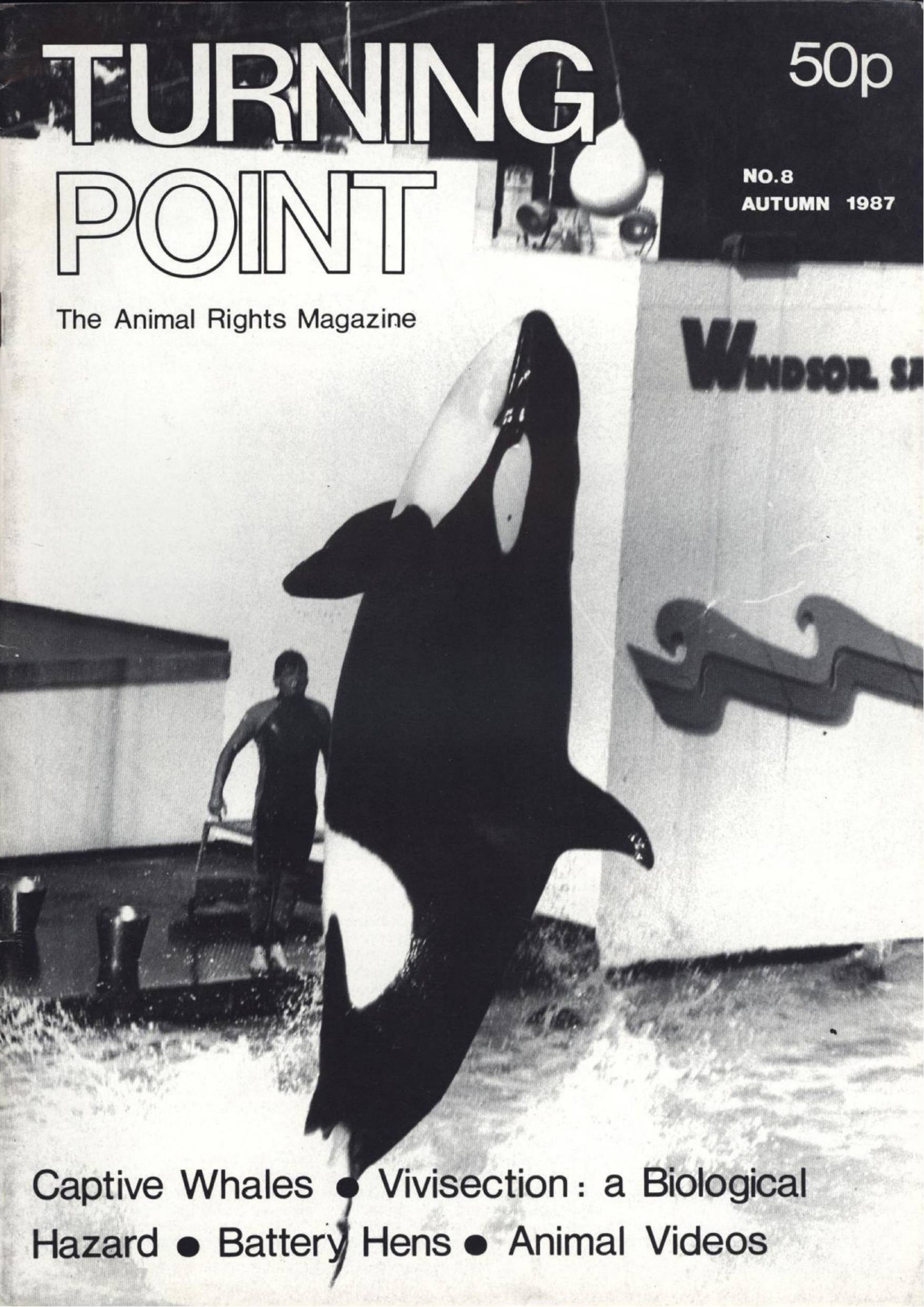
TURNING POINT

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AUTUMN 1987

The Animal Rights Magazine



Captive Whales • Vivisection : a Biological Hazard • Battery Hens • Animal Videos

TURNING POINT

The Animal Rights Magazine

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All correspondence should be sent to the above address. We welcome items and articles on any aspect of animal rights, but may have to edit some contributions. Opinions expressed in TURNING POINT are not necessarily those of the editor.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS:

Front: Winnie, Britain's only captive killer whale, performing a trick at Windsor Safari Park (see page 14 for full story). Photo: Turning Point.

Back: A donkey rescued by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) from Grange Farm in Sussex, an experimental laboratory owned by Wellcome Pharmaceuticals (see Animal Videos, page 21). Photo: Animal Liberation Front.

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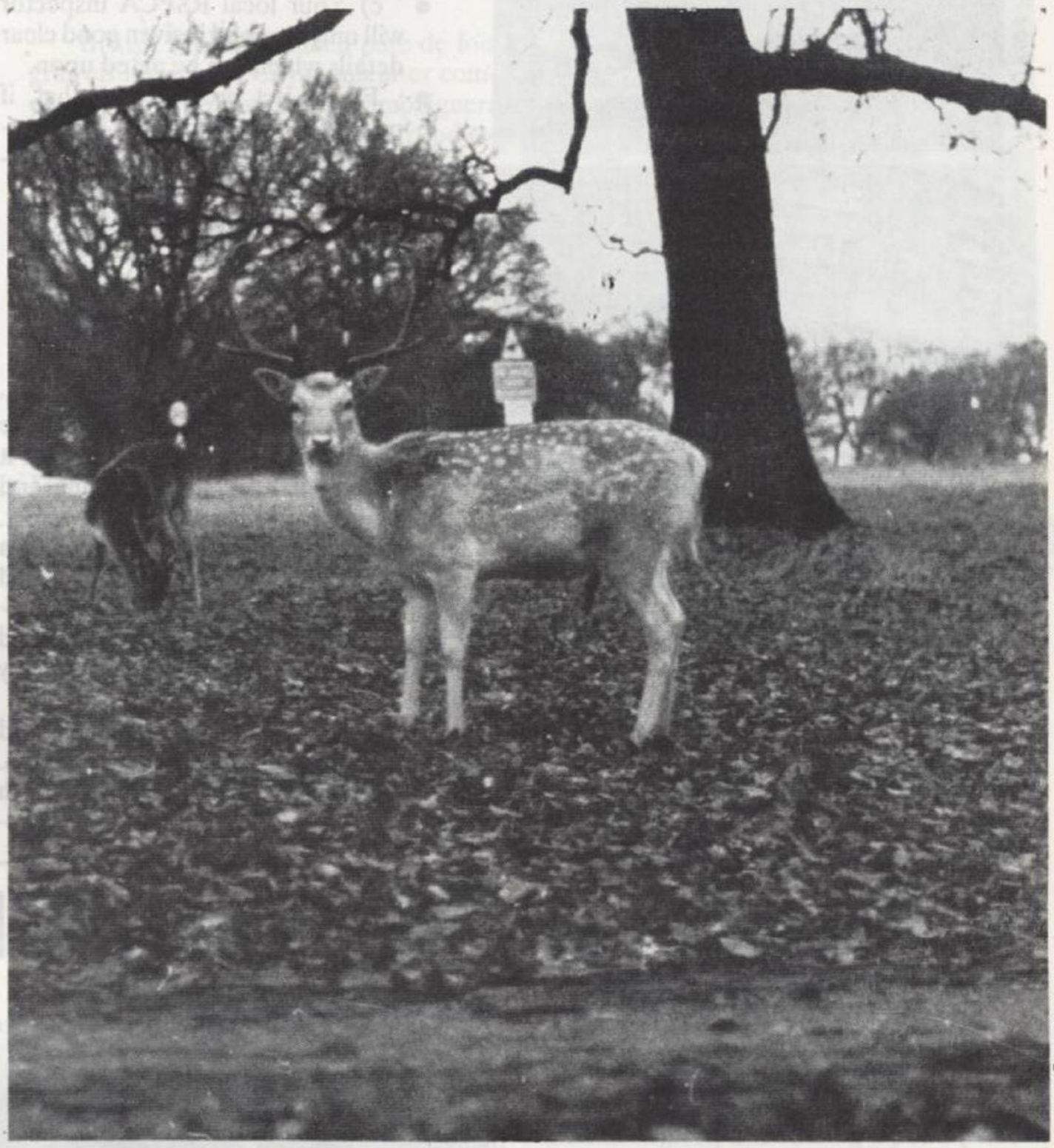
DEER FOR SLAUGHTER

With the increase in the market for venison in this country, deer farming has become a growth industry. For some time now there has been a great deal of anxiety about the abbatoir slaughter of deer. In 1985, the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) produced a report, "Welfare of Farmed Deer", which failed to condemn the abbatoir slaughter of deer. As a result four dissenting members of the council produced a report condemning the official report - the first time such a thing had ever happened.

The concern over the abbatoir slaughter of deer stems from a number of reasons. Firstly the process causes considerably more stress than in other farm animals. Confined deer, for example, will continually attempt to escape. Stages of the slaughter operation known to cause stress are: rounding up; de-antlering the stags; loading onto lorries; transportation to the slaughterhouse, unloading; lairing; and marshalling into the stunning pen. Transport is one of the gravest problems. John Hotchkis, a vice-chairman of the British Deer Society, said in an interview with the Daily Mirror: "the transport is worse than the slaughter. Awful things happen. Very recently a load of farmed deer arrived with broken legs. Half had to be put down." Now things look set to get even worse with the government making moves to make respectable the abbatoir slaughter of deer.

Earlier this year a Bill was introduced into the Commons to permit the slaughter of farmed deer in the close season for wild deer under the Deer Act, 1963. The Bill passed through both houses unopposed and reached the statute book shortly before parliament dissolved. This was followed by an early day motion signed by 30 MPs calling for a ban on the slaughter of deer in commercial slaughterhouses. Since then a more disturbing piece of legislation has been proposed. A government private members bill, tabled by Emma Nicholson MP, has proposed that codes of practice be implemented as regards the abbatoir slaughter of deer. Should this bill be passed it will give the green light to the abbatoir slaughter of deer and future opposition will be very difficult indeed. Already Emma Nicholson has recieved over 300 letters of protest against her bill.

Readers are urged to write to Emma Nicholson MP at the House of Commons and John MacGregor MP, Ministry of Agriculture, Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH, demanding that the private members bill be withdrawn and calling for a ban on the slaughter of deer in commercial slaughterhouses. In addition, readers should send letters of protest to: the Manager of Waitrose, John Lewis Partnership, 4 Old Cavendish Street, London W1A 1EX. Waitrose are the main supermarket chain selling venison.



Turning Point

LIVE EXPORTS

In July the largest ever shipment of thoroughbred cattle left New Zealand for Venezuala. The cargo of 2,500 pregnant dairy cows had been specially bred to supposedly withstand tropical diseases, heat and animal ticks, common in South America. The cattle faced a very long and frightening journey.

On 28th July Compassion In World Farming presented a 300,000 signature petition to the prime minister calling for an end to live exports. In 1986, 201,306 calves and 189,148 lambs and sheep were exported from the UK. The journeys of these animals, without food and water, may last up to 66 hours.

CHIMP/MAN

Vivisectors in America recently succeeded in making a female chimpanzee pregnant using human sperm. The baby was killed before birth to avoid the tirade of rebuke that would have come from all side - including their own "profession".

A futile experiment, you might think? Not so. The vivisectors responsible had envisaged using the new primate for "dirty jobs - or organ banks for transplants."

CHICKENS IN TRANSIT



Turning Point



Turning Point

The picture above is of the side of a chicken transporter carrying broiler hens to a Faccenda slaughterhouse. A chicken's leg is clearly trapped in the door of the crate that contains it. The bird will have been trapped like this for its entire journey and will therefore have experienced much unnecessary suffering and distress. We have sent a copy of the photograph to Faccenda and asked them what they intend to do about such offences.

Sadly the abuse of poultry in transit is all too common. For this reason Chickens' Lib have produced a list of points to look out for when you see poultry transporters.

- Make a note of the lorry's number.
- Note down the time, and any information, such as the firm's name.
- Note anything special - eg was the lorry properly covered with waterproof material if it was raining, or properly protected from the rays of the sun if hot.
- Note if the crates were damaged, and if any of the birds seemed in danger of dropping out onto the road.
- Note as far as you can the condition of the birds. The colour of the birds will tell you, almost certainly, if they are end-of-lay hens (brown) or broiler chickens (white, or a filthy off-white). The third possibility is that you may see young (brown) pullets on their way to a battery.
- Once you have taken down all the details you can muster, then contact:
- a) Your local branch of the Ministry of Agriculture (under "Agriculture, Ministry of" in the phone book).
- b) Your local Environmental Health Officer - ask to speak to the Chief EH officer and (if appropriate) stress that the condition of the birds (featherless, terrible smell, etc) leads you to suspect that their health may be bad and they should be checked by a vet at the place of slaughter.
- c) Your local RSPCA inspector will only respond if given good clear details which can be acted upon.
- Finally act promptly, so that, if possible, the lorry can be intercepted before the birds are slaughtered.

INDIA BANS FROG TRADE

Following a major campaign by Compassion In World Farming (CIWF) the Indian government has confirmed that it has banned the commercial killing and export of frogs with immediate effect. Frogs' legs are regarded as a Western delicacy, but they are obtained, like all such "luxury" foods, through terrible suffering. The frogs are hunted at night and their legs cut from their bodies whilst they are fully conscious.

CIWF reports: "The trade has had horrific ecological consequences in India. Frogs live on the waterborne pests which destroy crops and carry disease. By removing vast quantities of frogs to titilate the palates of western consumers, India's delicate ecological balance has been severely disrupted. The five and a half million pounds earned in foreign exchange by frogs' legs exports has been offset by a thirteen million pound increase in pesticide imports to deal with the pest the frogs no longer eat."

Sadly Bangladesh and Indonesia have not accepted India's invitation to join them in ending this trade. In 1986, frogs' legs imports from Bangladesh increased by 68%.

VETS AND VIVISECTION

Student vets at the University of Bristol School of Veterinary Medicine, which was recently exposed for their experiments on cats and rodents, would do well to follow the example of two University of Pennsylvania students. The two veterinary students are suing the university to prevent them from forcing them to perform practice surgery on healthy animals before being allowed to graduate.

FOREST NAPALM UPDATE

In the last issue we reported the napalming of thousands of acres of Texas forests. We are pleased to report that the project has at least temporarily been halted due to wet and muddy conditions. However, Earth First are keeping up their pressure to ensure that it does not restart.

WORLD PIGEON SHOOTS



Turning Point

In October 1986, 30,000 pigeons were slaughtered during the World Pigeon Shooting Tournament, hosted by Argentina. The event was a flagrant contradiction of the country's animal protection laws, yet was supported by many prominent officials, including the president. Similar shoots take place in a different country each year and are run by a Paris-based group.

The good news is that new laws curently under discussion in Argentina will prohibit the repetition of such an event.

Other good news is that the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is launching a campaign against the Fred Coleman Memorial Shoot. This shoot, mentioned in the last issue of TURNING POINT, attracts 300 gunmen and is billed as the world's biggest single day shoot.

CIRCUS SUFFERING

In 1986, Chipperfields' Circus sent three female elephants, named Camilla, Leila, and Mina, on a horrifying 25,000 mile journey.

The elephants were sent from England to the Far East, by sea, inside a metal container measuring a mere 40' by 8' by 9.5'. The circus performed in Bangkok, then travelled by sea to Taiwan, where the authorities would not allow the elephants to land. So, they were left in their metal container, on a barge, in stifling humidity and 90 degree temperatures, manacled by their legs. They remained like this for two months. When the circus moved to Hong Kong, the elephants were again refused entry, so they were placed in a new container and sent back to England. In England the container was found unroadworthy because of damage caused by the animals' frantic kicking. After only a week the animals were placed in another equally cramped container and returned to Hong Kong.

Chipperfields' have admitted that they have had to go to the Far East because of public opposition to circuses with animals in this country. Richard Chipperfield said, "They have driven the circus out of Britain, so now we go where we are welcome - the Far East." The World Society for the Protection of Animals are urging their member societies to make sure that circuses with animals are not as welcome as they believe.

SEAL KILLED FOR TV

In the BBC series "The Survival Team", the volunteer castaways killed and ate a grey seal. In the series three people were dropped on an island off the Welsh coast and told to survive for three weeks. The scenes in which the seal was killed were cut from the programme. The incident was reported to the Home Office and Nature Conservancy Council because it is illegal, under the Conservation of Seals Act, to kill a seal without a licence.

FUR POLL

An opinion poll recently commissioned by the anti-fur group LYNX has shown overwhelming public opposition to the fur trade. The poll was based on an independent survey of 2000 adults and revealed that 70% of those questioned were against fur farming, 74% were against trapping and 72% actually wanted steps introduced to ban the trapping of animals for their fur.

In another poll, bloodsports were given the thumbs down by the public. The poll conducted by Gallup in April/May of this year produced the following results: 68% approved of a law against foxhunting, 73% of a law against staghunting, and 72% of a law against harecoursing, with only 16%, 12%, and 12% disapproving respectively.

PATE DE FOIS GRAS

British Rail have taken pate de fois gras off their Inter City menu after complaints from animal rights campaigners about the cruelty involved in its production.

Meanwhile in the European Parliament the fois gras debate continues. French MEP Alain Bombard has announced that the French government has agreed to set up a test using 2,000 force fed and 2,000 naturally fed geese, to study the difference in quantity and quality of the livers produced.

RESEARCH WHALING

In 1982 the International Whaling Commission (IWC) called for a ban on commercial whaling, to commence in 1985, with the possibility that it would be lifted in 1990. Japan, Korea, and Iceland have now announced that they intend to conduct whaling for "scientific purposes". Special licences will be granted to allow a certain number of whales to be killed to supposedly study population levels. There are a number of reasons behind this. First it will sustain the whalers through what they contemplate is just a lull. Secondly they will attempt to use any data they obtain to justify a restart to commercial whaling in 1990 - by saying that whale populations can sustain it. Thirdly the meat is sold commercially. The moves are being met with opposition and as Sir Peter Scott told the IWC annual meeting; "Killing whales in the name of science contributes to neither conservation nor science."

SHOES FROM CALVES

At a recent press conference in London, the Italian shoe firm Ferragamo stressed that their shoes were made from only the finest leather. And how do they get that leather. Pregnant cows are fed a diet of milk and beer and then their pregnancies are aborted. The leather is then taken from the dead feotal calf.

The anti-vivisection video Hidden Crimes is now available for hire for 3 plus £ 15 returnable deposit, for one months rental. The cost of buying the video is still £18, from: SUPRESS, PO Box 302, London N8 9HD.

VEAL PROSECUTION



SEALL

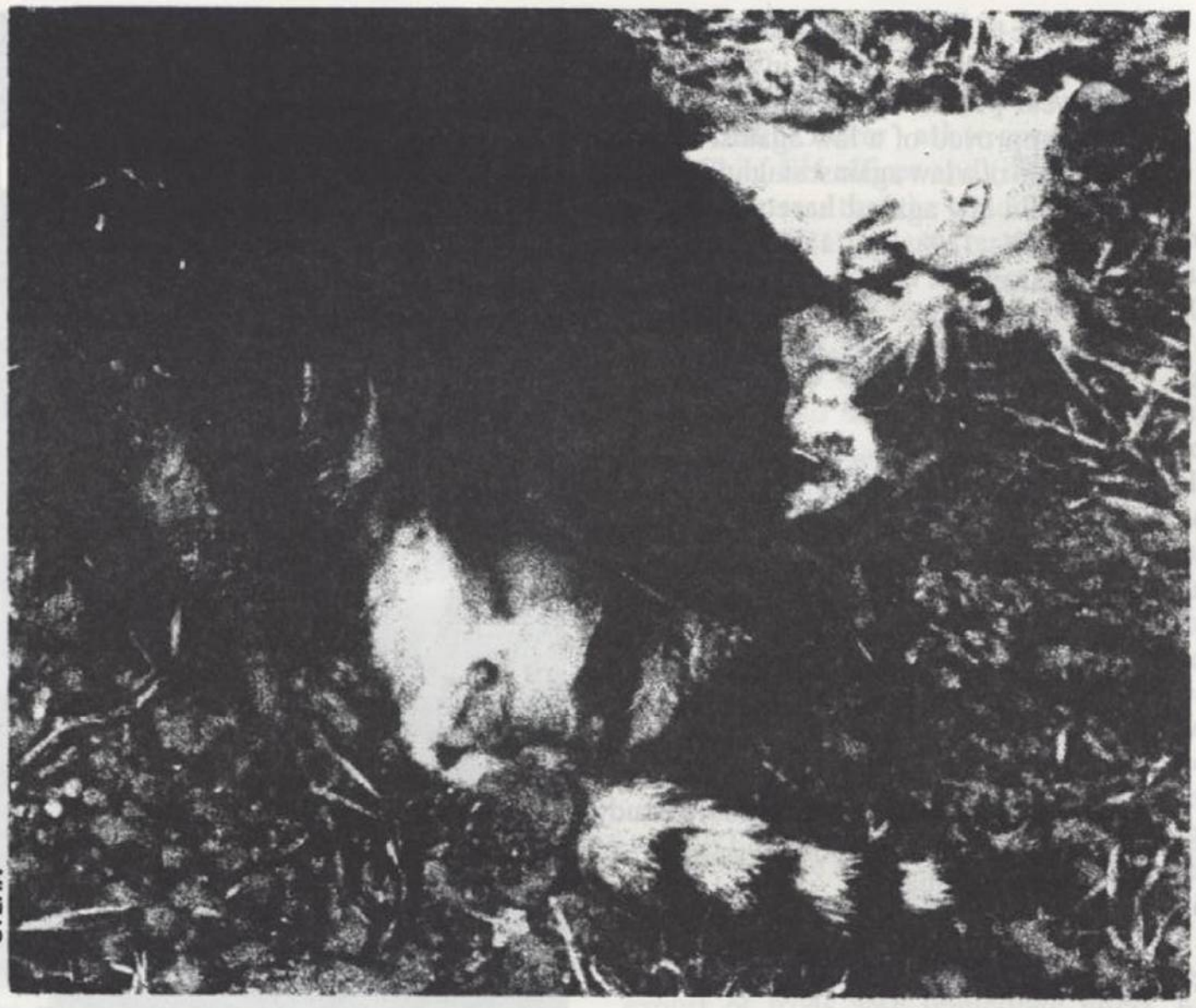
Whilst we await news of progress on the proposed UK veal crate ban, an American veal farmer has been convicted of animal torture.

In 1984, a sheriff's deputy discovered six dead and 159 barely living calves inside a stifling hot barn on the Sonoma County Veal Farm, in California. The deputy reported that, "veal calves in pens were covered in excrement, apparently starving with no food or water buckets." Over 900 decomposing corpses were found outside the barn and inside, dead calves lay rotting in stalls next to the living. The owner, Michael Cambra, was arrested and charged with animal torture, animal neglect, and fouling a pond (with the body of a calf).

Finally, after three years, Cambra was found guilty of animal torture and neglect on March 4th. His sentence was a paltry $250 fine, 15 days on a work release program, and three years probation.

GRAND NATIONAL

During the Grand National this year, the horse Dark Ivy was killed in a fall at the notorious Becher's Brook fence. The RSPCA put in an urgent request that this fence be made safer. Sadly, a recomendation by the Aintree Board that the fence should remain unaltered was recently accepted by the Jockey Club. Letters of protest are needed and should be sent to: The Jockey Club, 42 Portman Square, London W1H 0EN, and The Clerk of the Course, Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool, Merseyside.



STERN

HUNTING DOGS TRAINED WITH LIVE CATS

These horrific pictures appeared in the German magazine Stern in April this year. They show how some German hunting dogs are trained to kill and retrieve animals shot by their masters. Dog breeders trap cats, usually with metal cages in the outskirts of towns, and take them to the countryside where they are thrown to dogs. This will often increase the dogs' selling price, because many hunters will pay generously for a dog with a proven killing instinct. This particular incident occured in the state of Hesse. However, the Hesse Hunters' Association have denied any knowledge of such practices.

GLORIOUS TWELTH

The start of the grouse shooting season was met with appropriate reponses from all branches of the anti-bloodsports lobby. The Hunt Saboteurs Association (HSA) attended the Lancashire grouse moors on 12th August, and on the previous morning the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) blockaded the entrance of the headquarters of the British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC).

There were so many Hunt Saboteurs that they prevented any shooters getting onto the moors, and thus prevented the slaughter.

With a slightly different approach, the ALF stole a six foot high marble monument, commemorating the murder of 2,070 grouse in 25 minutes, in 1872, from a private shooting moor in Yorkshire. This was then taken to the BASC near Wrexham, North Wales, where, after having slogans added to it it was re-erected in front of the main gates which were chained shut.

ZOOS AND LABS

It has long been known that some zoos sell off surplus animals for vivisection. However, a recent attempt by Detroit Zoo to do this was prevented by the Michigan Coalition for Animals (MCA). The zoo advertised a group of five Japanese snow monkeys in a primate clearinghouse publication (aimed chiefly at the biomedical community) after they had been rejected by other primates in the zoo colony. MCA promptly protested at the zoo demanding that the monkeys be sent to the South Texas Primate Observatory. The Observatory already protects a troop of 350 free-ranging snow monkeys and had agreed to take the additional five.

The zoo director Steve Graham refused and MCA issued a lawsuit against the zoo. The lawsuit was dropped when Graham agreed to send the monkeys to Indianapolis Zoo instead. In the past Graham has: had 8 Siberian tigers killed because they were not "purebred"; sold 34 baboons and 29 crab-eating macaques for vivisection; and sold an entire herd of bison to a slaughterhouse because they were an "unproductive exhibit".

POLLUTION KILLS

Pollution is believed to be responsible for the deaths of forty beluga whales found dead on the banks of Canada's St. Lawrence River over the last three years. Autopsies showed extremely high levels of DDT, polychlorinated bipheyls, and the insecticide Mirex in the victims' blubber. Beluga whales are already an endangered species.

AIDS

A researcher at the National Institutes of Health, in the USA, has become infected with HIV after being involved in experiments with the virus there. See BIOHAZARD, p17.

HUNT ATTACKS HENS

On March 4th the Badsworth Foxhunt allowed their hounds to enter a farmyard and savage a flock of free range hens, six of which were decapitated. Farmer Teresa Davies said: "The Badsworth had no permission to be on our land. I screamed at them to call the hounds off but one red-coated rider simply put two fingers up at me as he went by. Another dismounted, jumped over the wall into my front garden, picked up the corpse of one of my hens, threw it into a hedge and then rode off without a word."

ISLAM

In July, a new book, entitled, "Islamic Concern For Animals" by Al-Hafiz.B.A.Masri, was published by the Athene Trust. It is believed that nothing of this kind has been published in the Muslim world in more than 1,400 years, so the book's impact is being watched with interest. A review will appear in TURNING POINT, meanwhile it is available for 5.95 from the Athene Trust, 3A Charles Street, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 3EH.

CONVOY OF HOPE

In the last issue we mentioned the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) appeal for money to help pay for a convoy to be sent to help the Ugandan Park Rangers beat elephant poachers. We can now report that the convoy is on its way.



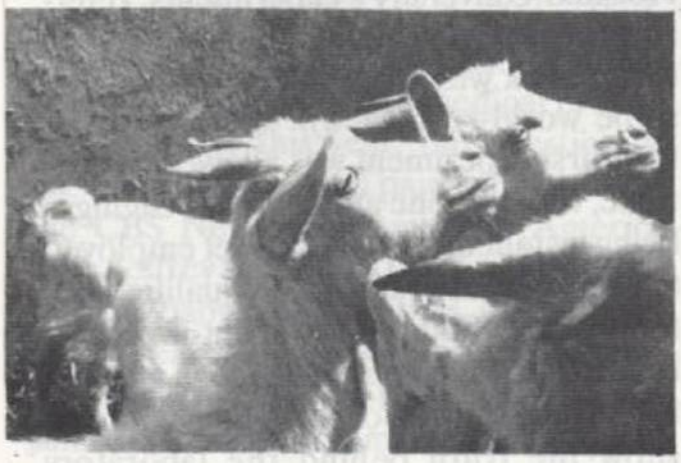


ANIMAL LIBERATION

Animal Liberation Front groups have been active in recent months; below are press reports sent in to Turning Point:

Before dawn, on June 23rd, ALF activists visited Hadlow College of Agriculture near Tonbridge, Kent, rescuing nine young male goats which they believe were destined for ritual slaughter. In a statement signed 'Billy the Kid' the group reported that the animals were suffering from a viral infection which was being treated since their liberation. Unsuprisingly the college denied these claims.

Again in the early hours of the morning, on July 24th, the ALF raided the Experimental Psychology animal house at Sussex University near Brighton. Over 250 rats were rescued from experimentation and are now in good homes. In a press statement written on Sussex University headed paper the activists reported: "The building was found to contain large numbers of young white rats including many breeding pairs. These animals were destined for senseless and sadistic behavioural experiments including;

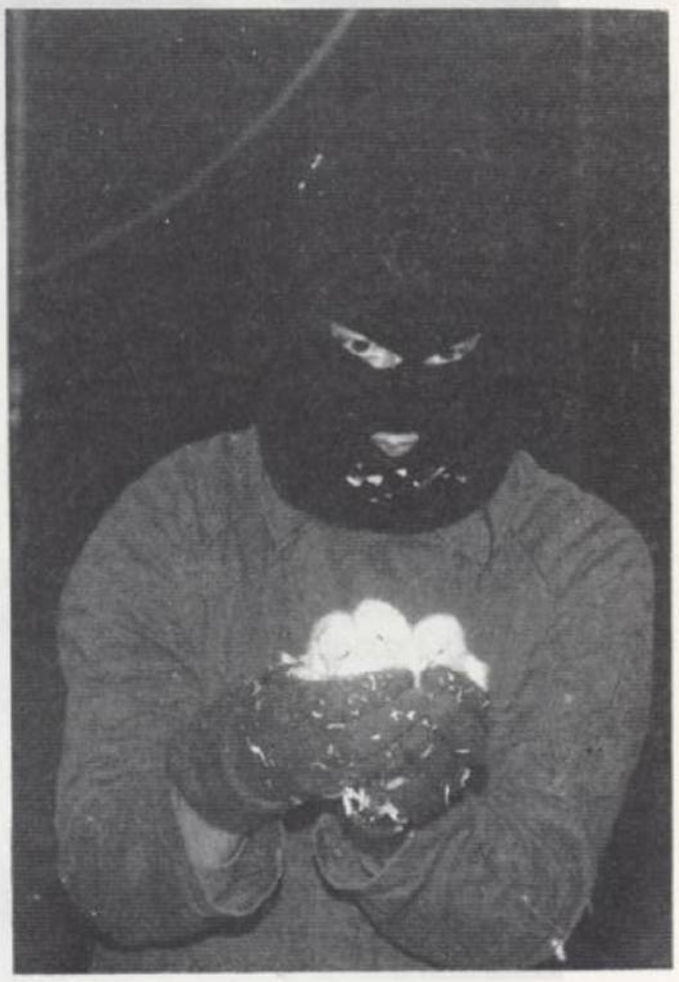
deprivation of food and light, repeated electrical shocks and brain damage. Torture for no other reason than curiosity. Many may also have been used for so called 'diabetes research', something the university openly boasts of." The group has vowed to take further action if the university does not make public its intention to cease animal experimentation.

The next morning the ALF struck again, this time at Blank's battery farm at Newdigate in Surrey. Fifty chickens were liberated and video film was taken of the appalling conditions there. The farm is owned by Dorking JP, Roger Mackinnon, whose wife Bridget is a leading defender of battery farms and who only recently appeared on children's TV on the programme 'Splash' defending this abuse in the face of RSPCA criticism. The Mackinnons run two farms, imprisoning a total of 9,000 hens. They admitted after the raid that their chickens were lacking in feathers but that this was due to the birds being near to being end of lay. Turn to the centre pages for more about battery farming.

More chickens were rescued on August 14th from Windmill farm near Oakshott in Hampshire. Animal Liberation Front members cut their way through the wall of a large broiler shed housing chicks just a few days old. The activists rescued one hundred chicks that will now live out their lives in freedom, instead of being slaughtered by the meat trade after just a few weeks. The shed entered here contained tens of thousands of chicks, which by the time they reached slaughter weight would be barely able to move, because so many birds are confined to one broiler shed. The death toll was already high, the activists reported that they had found dustbins full of corpses outside the shed. It had, apparently, been the intention of the activists to rescue as many chicks as they could before conditions inside the shed deteriorated too badly as the birds grow.

All photographs on this page courtesy of the Animal Liberation Front





SIDESTEPPING THE LAW

Paivi Viinikainen, Chairperson of the Finish Anti-Vivisection Society (Koe-elainten suojelu ry), reported a successful exposure of vivisectors bending the law to suit themselves at Helsinki University in June. This tragedy is an excellent example of how pointless it is to try to regulate animal experiments on the basis of levels of pain which may be endured. No system could be more open to abuse, or interpretation of convenience.

In April, a paper was published on sight deprivation experiments on baby monkeys from the University's Institute of Physiology. The animals' eyes had been stitched shut within a few hours of birth and they had been subjected to repeated operations to relocate electrodes implanted in their brains. Their eyes were opened after a year, and further tests carried out.

This work is very reminiscent of that of Oxford monkey and kitten blinding expert, Colin Blakemore. The only difference is, the Fins saw it for what it was.

Following the publication of the Helsinki work, an animal attendant took a journalist and a photographer from an evening newspaper around the laboratories and subsequent newspaper articles exposed the activities of the vivisectors.

The journalists saw thirst experiments, where monkeys, with clasps into their heads, were strapped into restraint chairs and forced to learn to press a sequence of buttons to obtain water. The wounds where electrodes had been implanted in their brains were ulcerating.

They also saw cats which had already been operated upon. Electrodes had been implanted in their brains in preparation for sleep deprivation experiments: They would be kept on mattresses where, if they fell asleep, they would plunge into cold water. Conditions appear to have been generally unhygienic and the animals wre obviously psychologically disturbed.

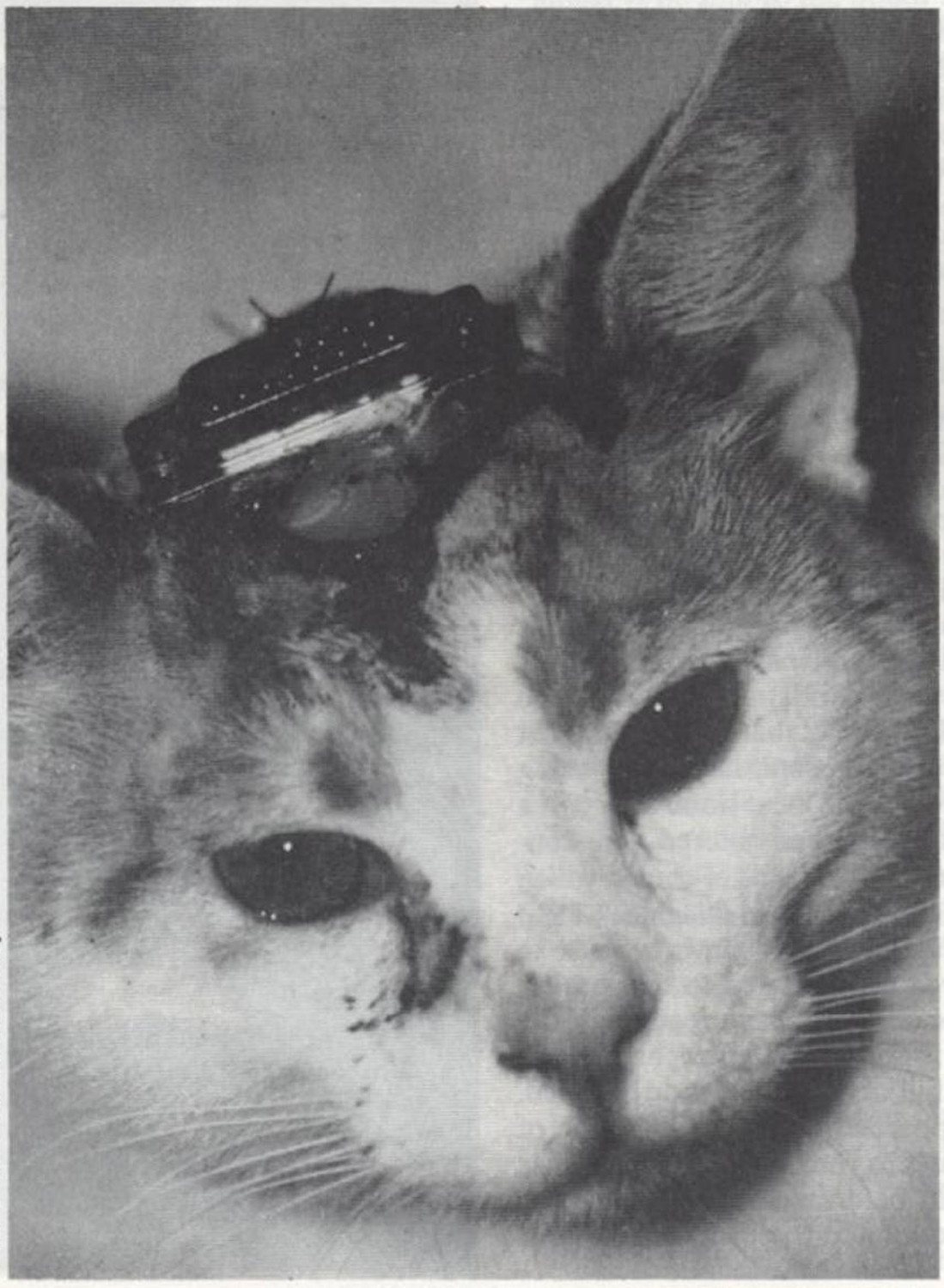
The Finnish Act on Vivisection requires that each institute conducting experiments must form a committee on experiments (yes, that good old comforter of conscience again). The only problem is, as Paivi Viinikainen points out, these committees are full of vivisectors. The idea behind the regulations is that they have a committee to look at the experimenter's proposals, decide upon the level of pain involved (and presumably merits of experiment), and give permission or refer the case up to a higher authority as the case demands. (It all sounds very familiar, doesn't it?). If the committee decide, as in this case, that the experiment is "second category" and therefore not painful, permission is given. However, if the experiment is "first category" (i.e. painful), permission must be sought from the County Administrative Board. (Each county in Finland has an Administrative Board covering animal experimentation).

The trouble is, no-one actually controls what these committees do, so they can do what they like. If they wish to class something as less painful they can, thus giving permission for experiments as they think fit without any outside control. Turning Point is sure that the committees will, of course, be comprised of the most eminent people - as always!

This is in fact precisely how these unfortunate animals came to meet such a fate at Helsinki University. When investigating, the county veterinary surgeon was amazed to find that the experiments had simply been classified differently in order to go ahead without permission from the County Board. He declared the experiments illegal and directed the University to go to the County Board for permission.

The University have, inevitably, accused the animal attendant who blew the whistle of lying, and the Finnish Anti-Vivisection Society are convinced that they intend to escape further criticism by changing the details of the planned experiments to second category level for submission to the County Board. An added bonus to this has been that the county vet also visited another lab, where reports had been received of particularly cruel experiments. Despite the fact that this laboratory had declared zero experiments for the previous year, he found other illegal experiments and banned these also.

As a result of all this, the County Administrative Board banned all but one of Helsinki University's experiments, referring to them as "scientifically invalid" (and this is work which the vivisectors claimed to be world-renowned). Unfortunately, the thirst experiment was allowed to continue, with just one animal. New caging is being installed, and an extra vet employed to check the laboratories. A qualified victory for the Finnish AV's, but a success because of the positive change in attitude from the County Board. Their battle to show the truth behind the laboratory doors continues.



Finnish Anti-Vivisection Society

Cat in Helsinki University sleep deprivation experiment

EXPERIMENTS ON HUMAN BABIES

In August a political row flared up after experiments conducted on premature babies at the Department of Paediatrics, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. The controversy centred on the report of an experiment, first published in the Lancet on 10th January 1987, which aimed to prove that premature babies have a substantial stress response to surgery under conventional anaesthesia.

The experiment involved 16 premature babies which were randomly divided into two groups: The first group were given, prior to surgery, the muscle relaxant curare and nitrous oxide (laughing gas), the second group nitrous oxide, curare, and an injection of Fentanyl. The purpose of this was to question the traditional belief that premature babies do not percieve pain. A strange belief, since it is not questioned that even very premature infants will grimace, vocalise and withdraw from a needle prick. The results showed that the infants who only received nitrous oxide and curare showed a substantial stress response to surgery. The researchers concluded from this: "None of the infants in this study displayed any clinical evidence of pain during the surgical procedure, but the very substantial stress response observed in those receiving nitrous oxide and curare could imply that this commonly used anaesthetic regimen did not completely dampen the response to pain." They added that this was clearly an area for further exploration. Dr. John Searle, of the Association of Anaesthetists, said of this "with nitrous oxide alone, your brain would register the fact that a surgeon was trying to remove a toenail. You would not feel any pain as such, but your body may be exposed to substantial stress."

Even though they undoubtedly receive greater legal protection than laboratory animals, the debate over the John Radcliffe experiments has highlighted the vulnerability of babies to the medical profession. Earlier this year, the question of premature babies and pain was raised on the CBS News programme in America after Jeffrey Lawson, a three months premature baby, died several weeks after major heart surgery with no anaesthesia whatsoever. His mother, Jill Lawson, said on the programme that, "They cut him open from his breast bone to his back bone, cut through all the layers of tissue, pried his lungs aside."

Such practices are more comon than we imagine. In the USA about a million babies a year are routinely circumcised without anaesthesia. In an experiment the cries of full term babies being circumcised were recorded and showed a distinct increase during the procedure. Similar studies have been done with premature babies, yielding the same results.

Concern has also been expressed by some of the use of children in experimental transplant procedures. Probably the most ghoulish being the case of 'baby Fae' who was given a baboon's heart before finally dying. There is also much concern



that the anti-rejection drugs given following these procedures, such as Cyclosporin A, are known to be carcinogenic (cancer causing). There was a new twist to all of this in July this year, when a police murder investigation was instigated against Magdi Yacoub, transplant surgeon at Harefield Hospital. This followed the removal of a heart from a brain-damaged child being kept alive on a ventilator, to be given to a boy, who also died the next day. Following this, the Royal College of Physicians ordered a ban on such operations, and the Garda in Eire (where the heart was removed) began an investigation into whether it was a case of murder.

Also in August, legislation to legalise experiments on human embryos up to 14 days after fertilisation was delayed and will not be appearing for at least a year. Should this legislation be passed, it will be interesting to see where it leads - since the legalisation of animal experiments back in 1876 only served to increase the number and diversity of experiments. This shows how regulation of bad practices only implies society's seal of approval and guarantees widespread abuse. Only clear legislation banning such practices works.

In Finland it is legal to abort foetuses as old as five months, and these can then be grown in incubators and sold for research. The following is from the "Globe" of Greenwich, Conneticut, USA, on August 19, 1980, and was entitled "Aborted Babies Kept Alive for Grisly Experiments":

"Finland was originally selected for the experiments because it has very liberal abortion laws in which a fetus as old as five months can be legally aborted. Consequently, many of them survive the abortion procedure.

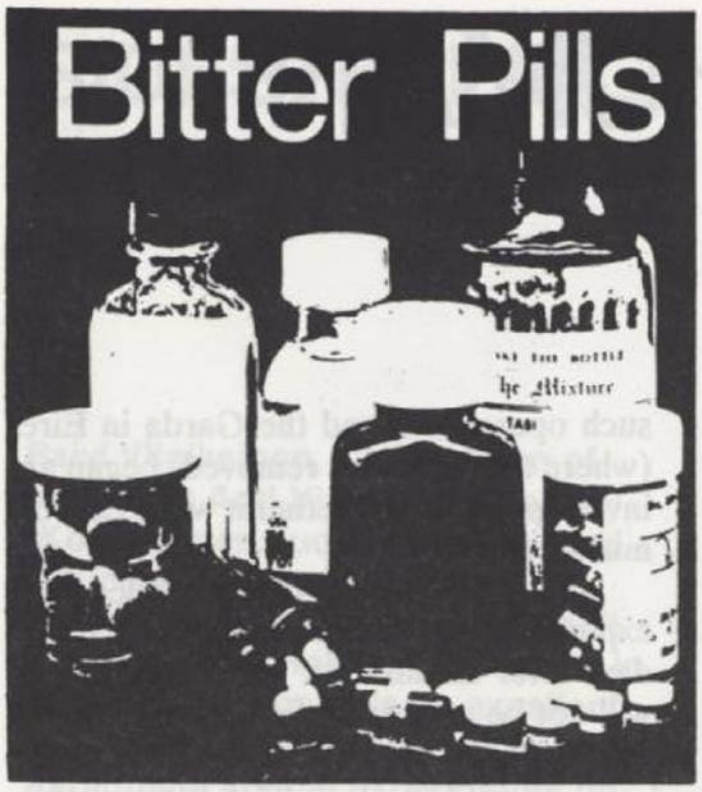
The Helsinki survivors were kept alive in an incubator and then transported to a hospital in the port city of Turku to await their grisly fate.

One nurse at the Turku labs said he saw one of those experiments under the direction of Finnish researcher Dr. Martti Kekomaki. He says in a gruesome dossier published this week in Globe's sister publication, National Examiner: "They took the fetus and cut its belly open. They said they wanted its liver. They carried the baby out of the incubator and it was still alive. It was a boy. It had a complete body, with hands, feet, mouth and ears. It was even secreting urine.

The baby was not injected with an anaesthetic when doctors sliced its belly open.

Asked to explain this horror, Dr. Kekomaki said, 'An aborted baby is just garbage.' He said they have little chance of survival anyway. 'Why not make use of it for society?' "

Bitter Pills



News from the drugs industry

SEX-PILLS

As one group of experimenters said they were going to combat rape with a drug to reduce rapists' sexual desire, another are singing the praises of a new drug to increase sexual appetite. This drug to pep up people with low sexual desire has been tested on rats, mice, dogs, and primates at 15 medical centres around the US. The researchers are now looking for human volunteers to try the drug.

PHARMACEUTICAL GENOCIDE

Gwen Deemai-Hall, a researcher in Aboriginal history at James Cook University in Townsville, Australia, told a science conference in Townsville in September that the Queensland Government was forcing Aboriginal girls, as young as 13, to be injected with the contraceptive drug Depo-provera, under the disguise of a rubella immunisation programme. Gwen Deemai-Hall claims that this is part of the Queensland Government's "subtle policy" of keeping down the numbers of Aborigines. Depo-provera was banned in the United States because of its side effects.

ARTHRITIS PAINKILLER DEATHS

In May the painkiller Suprol, used by arthritis sufferers and marketed in Britain by the Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Ortho-Cilag, was withdrawn worldwide after reports of kidney damage. Suprol was taken off the UK market in October 1986 after 50,000 prescriptions had been issued. Now it has been revealed that two patients have died and 68 have suffered side-effects after taking the drug. These included kidney pain, gastro intestinal bleeding, and skin rashes. There are also fears that the drug might be cancer causing and that if this is the case it might not manifest itself for, say, another 15 years after the patient has stopped taking the drug.

Apparently, tests in rats and mice have caused tumours. However, this did not stop the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) or the US Food and Drug Administration passing the drug as safe - which only goes to show how valuable these bodies believe animal tests are. Meanwhile, Ortho's medical director, Dr. Wendy Jefferson, is denying that any animal tsts have shown that the drug causes cancer.

It is hardly surprising that animal tests are merely causing confusion and regularly being ignored - such is their reliability. What is more disturbing is the failure of the authorities or drug companies to react when adverse reactions begin in humans. As long ago as October 1986 at least one person had died after taking the drug in the UK and 270 cases of serious kidney damage had been reported in the USA. At that time the CSM predicted that there would be 20 deaths and 180 severe adverse reactions for every million prescriptions, making it one of the most dangerous drugs of its type.

With an air of public responsibility that should be admired, Johnson & Johnson finally got around to withdrawing the drug worldwide seven months later.

DES

The state of New York's statute of limitations has been altered to allow suits to be filed by people claiming injuries from their mother's use of diethylstiboestrol (DES) during pregnancy. Several cases are expected.

DES was originally marketed as a drug to ensure a safe pregnancy. Later, it was discovered to have caused cancer in girls whose mothers had taken the drug; it had passed through the placental barrier and triggered a cancer in the foetus. By 1979 it was estimated that some 400 women had developed vaginal cancer, and at least 1,000 other female offspring were in danger. Incredibly, the manufacturers then began to market DES as a "morning after" contraceptive - the exact opposite of its original intent. Another irony of DES is that it was originally given to prevent miscarriage, and yet it is believed that DES daughters are more vulnerable than others to miscarriage, stillbirth, premature birth, and ectopic pregnancy (where the foetus grows outside of the uterus). It gets worse; Dr. Sidney Wolfe, of the Public Citizen Health Research Group, produced statistics which showed that among the two million women who had taken the drug 13,000 additional cases of breast cancer could be expected.

AIDS

The drugs industry has not been slow to see the commercial potential of AIDS. A recent study revealed that 1,000 organisations including over 300 manufacturing companies are currently developing treatments, diagnostics and preventatives for AIDS. Yet the Medical Research Council Chairman, Lord Jellicoe, is reported to have said that pharmaceutical companies were unwilling to do the work because of the dangers of litigation if an AIDS vaccine had unforseen side effects.

ASPIRIN

A new use appears to have been discovered for aspirin - preventing miscarriages. Clinical trials on pregnant women at Hammersmith Hospital, London, have so far proved very successful and plans are advanced for a nationwide trial involving between 4,000 and 5,000 pregnant

TURNING POINT APPEAL

Turning Point is run by unpaid volunteers, and funds are now needed to ensure that the appearance and content of the magazine continue to improve. The issues Turning Point raises need to reach a wider and wider audience, and we hope you agree that Turning Point is capable of catering for the uninitiated as well as the seasoned animal rights campaigner. Help to build THE animal rights magazine.

DONATIONS will be spent on running costs (postage, envelopes), promoting the magazine - free copies to bookshops and distributors, a lightbox and photographic equipment.

Please send a donation today to: TURNING POINT, The Animal Rights Magazine, Box 1, Earth 'n' Wear, 15 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1HP.

women. The study at Hammersmith involves 38 women who had already lost 76 out of the 84 babies they had carried. After treatment with aspirin 29 have so far given birth without complications. No doubt vivisectors will be baffled by this since aspirin causes birth defects in rats, mice, monkeys, guinea pigs, cats and dogs. Furthermore, it remains to be seen whether the dangers of aspirin to children will surface in the test in some way.

DRUG KILLS ASTHMA SUFFERERS

In August the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) reported that three asthmatics had died after taking single doses of ibuprofen, the main ingredient of the Boots drug Nurofen. Two had bought the drug over the counter in a chemists.

Ibuprofen was introduced by Boots in 1968 and has been used for years to treat arthritis. In 1984 it was put on sale over the counter because studies showed it caused fewer problems than aspirin. Both aspirin and Ibuprofen are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) and the CSM has warned that no asthma sufferers should take NSAIDs, adding that 309 people have suffered asthmatic attacks or lung spasms after taking NSAIDs. When Boots began to market Nurofen in 1983 they were aware that it could be dangerous to people who were sensitive to aspirin and yet it was sold as a safer alternative. No warnings were put on the packs to this end until last year, when a 65 year old asthmatic died after taking two Nurofen tablets. This summer, after 450 million Nurofen tablets have been taken by at least five million people, Boots began putting inserts in the packets warning asthmatics and aspirin sensitive people of the dangers. In October, the warning will be appearing on the outside of the packs.

However, it should be pointed out that Boots were fully aware of the adverse reactions, since Nurofen had previously been sold for years as he prescription drug Brufen. In addition to this Boots had begun to get reports of allergic reactions within six months of it reaching the market.



Finnish Anti-Vivisection Society

Monkey in thirst experiment at Helsinki University (see p.8)



I was sad to see the meat trade and the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries at each others throats recently. Many will be aware of the APBI's attempts to clean up their somewhat tarnished image. Their latest public relations exercise has been a television advert to tell people how to look after themselves (which you would imagine would mean not gulping down their tablets) and finishes with the warm message, "The British Pharmaceutical Industry - helping to keep Britain healthy". The advert attacks smoking, drinking, fatty foods, and lack of excercise (ironically, all the chief sources of revenue for the drugs industry). However, the thing that's upset the meat trade is that in May and June the ABPI ran advertisements in the national press saying 'look after your heart' with a picture of a meat pie shaped like a coffin. The Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) and the Bacon and Meat Manufacturer's Association promptly complained to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). Unfortunately for the meat trade, the ASA rejected the complaints saying that they thought the adverts as a whole gave sound dietary advice.

Also going for the heart, as it were, in an attempt to give themselves a better image are ICI. A new ICI corporate advertisement is being screened at the moment, which amongst other things sings the praises of ICI's heart drugs. The most famous of these is, of course, Eraldin, which was given the patients for four years before finally being withdrawn; after 18 deaths and thousands of patients had suffered side effects including blindness, stomach troubles, joint pains, and growths.

Having had my column slashed in this issue, I only really have time now to thank the Vegan Society (33 George Street, Oxford), for the nice things they've said about the magazine in their own organ.

L.W.



FACTORY FRESH

Turning Point

On 6th July, 1987, draft regulations were laid before parliament setting the first legal minimum standards for the welfare of battery hens. The regulations introduce a minimum space allowance of 450 sq.cm. per bird. This was presented as a move forward for animal welfare, but is in fact the reverse, since the most common space allowance allocated in this country has previously been 465 sq.cm. As an indication of what this "welfare" move will really mean for battery chickens, consider this; 465 sq.cm. is already an area smaller than the page you are reading.

In this country approximately 45,000,000 laying hens are kept in tiny cages. Their eggs are marketed as the "taste of the country" and "farm fresh", in reality they are factory fresh.

THE BATTERY SYSTEM

In the UK, on average, each person consumes 225 eggs every year. The total annual UK egg output is 13,375,000,000. With figures like these it is easy to see that the egg industry is big, big business. The battery system for laying hens represents the ultimate model in what has come to be known as factory farming: Animal movement is kept to a minimum; their space requirements are minimised; feeding, drinking, often even egg collection are automated; lighting, heating etc., are all set on timers, and so the role of the farm worker is cut to a minimum.

Battery farms may vary considerably in size, but basic principles govern them all. A typical battery farm unit is a long windowless shed with vents on the sides or roof, and a feeder on one end. Again, the sheds vary in size, usually holding about 20,000 birds, but they can be as big as 90,000. The birds are confined in tiers of cages with walkways in between. The most common cage size is 18" x 20" containing five birds, which stand on a sloping wire mesh floor. This serves two purposes: Firstly, eggs roll to a tray at the front of the cage where they are easily collected or are even moved away automatically. Secondly, the mesh floor allows the birds' droppings to fall through, usually onto a conveyor which transports the waste to a pit beneath the shed.

By looking at this one feature, the cage floor, we can see how any welfare considerations are secondary (if they are even considered) to what will make life easy for the battery farmer. The wire mesh floor is obviously uncomfortable for the hens and, in extreme cases, birds' feet have been known to grow around the bars. Add to this a gradient of 1 in 5 to the front and you realise that even standing still must be uncomfortable.

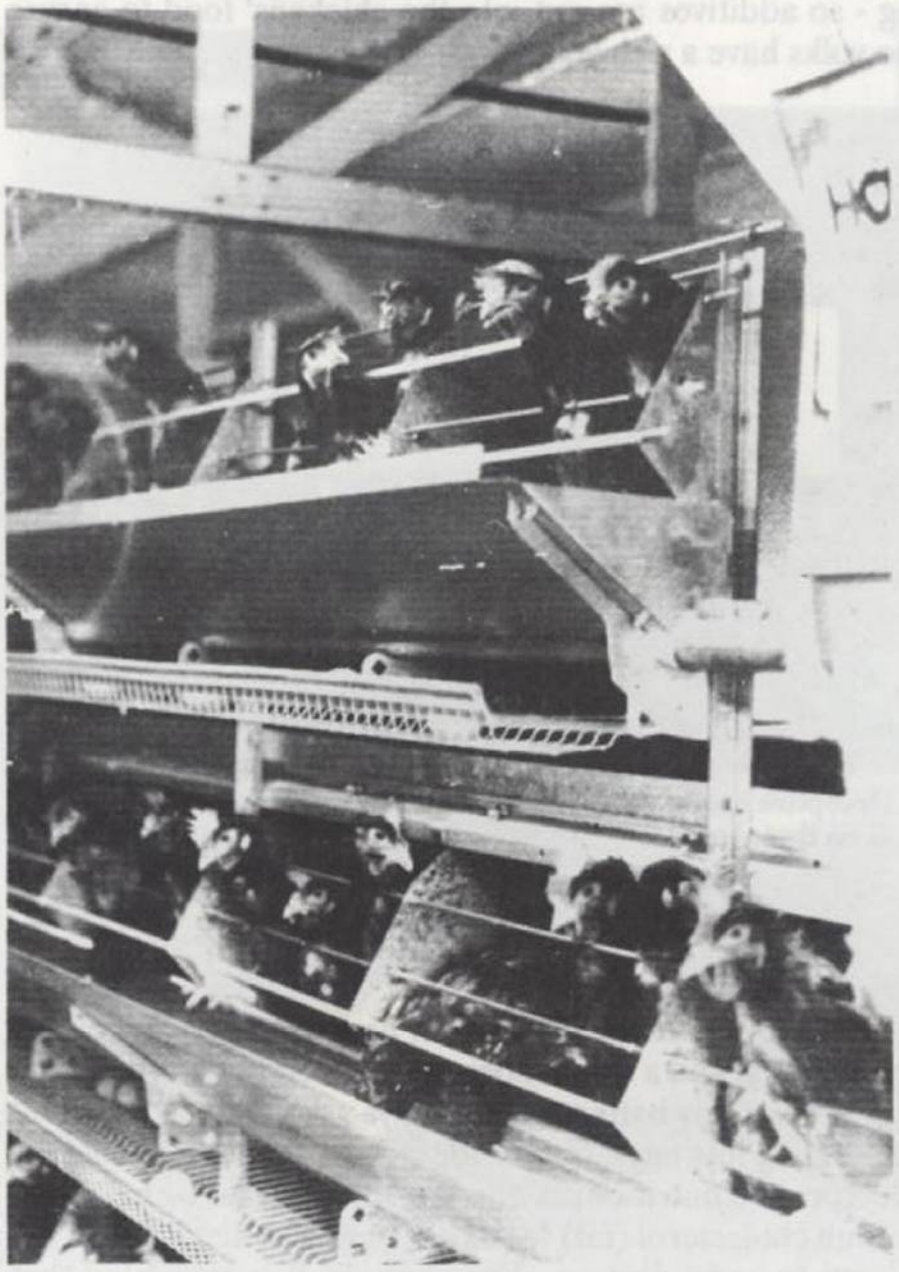
The temperature in the shed is kept high and generally the lighting is bright. The lighting, like feeding and waste disposal, is controlled by a timer. The most common lighting is 17 hours of bright or dim light for every 24 hours. In some instances the hens are tricked into an eight day week - they are given sixteen hours of light for every 21 hour cycle. With this system the birds lay more, but smaller, eggs. However, rather than live within these restrictions, a farmer can use his imagination: One American egg producer cut their fuel bill by 75% by keeping the hens in darkness for 20 hours a day. This was done using time switches, to switch the lights off for 45 minutes every hour during the hens' usual seventeen hour day.



Turning Point

Such an automated system is clearly designed to cut labour to an absolute minimum. The sheer scale of each operation renders individual attention to the birds impossible, except for daily removal of corpses from the cages. The size of battery farms has soared, with the largest being Egg City, outside Los Angeles, which holds two million chickens. It is ludicrous to imagine that a person making a cursory daily

check around a building containing 20,000 birds in extreme confinement would be able to spot any signs of distress, illness, or injury in individual birds. Thus end of lay battery hens with deformed limbs which have set at a twisted angle after a cage injury are often seen.



Turning Point

DEPRIVATION

The most obvious cruelty of the battery cage is the way it confines hens and deprives them of everything that is natural to them. Battery hens never feel the wind, sunshine, they cannot dustbathe, they cannot establish a pecking order, or fly. A hen's wingspan is on average 32", and yet she lives in a cage 18" x 20" with five others. Simply crossing the cage for food or water is a problem, with the inhabitants forced to clamber over one another. As a consequence hens often fight and peck each other out of frustration and overcrowding, and cannibalism begins. On an extensive (free range) system, if a fight breaks out, the weaker bird can flee to safety, but in the battery cage escape is impossible. When such attacks become a problem to battery farmers, they may resort to what is known as 'debeaking'. This is an extremely painful process that involves cutting the front half of the bird's beak off with a hot blade. As well as being a cruel process in itself, there is an additional cruelty in that the mutilation deprives the hen of her most versatile member.

Something that is perhaps overlooked are the psychological stresses of the cage. For example, some authorities believe that the worst abuse of the battery cage is that it does not allow the hen her natural privacy to lay her eggs. It is recognised that this instinct is similar to many things we human beings would be unwilling to do in public.

The wretched environment that the cage imposes is clearly detrimental to the birds' mental and physical health. Rubbing against the cage bars and pecking each other leads to feather loss, particularly on the neck. This unprotected skin may then become reddened and sore and even blistered. There are also many diseases peculiar to the system and every year 2.4 million chickens die in their cages. After about 15 months the hens are generally regarded as being burnt out. Although they may have many egg laying years left, their productivity will have passed its economic peak and so it is time to replace them. Some unfortunate hens have to endure a second term of imprisonment. If this is the case, they will be put through a forced moult. To do this the farmer will cut off their lighting, food, and water for 24 hours; for two weeks only 2 hours of light a day will be given and food restricted. After a life entirely automated the trauma this creates must be extreme; the shock makes their feathers fall out and hastens their second laying cycle.

Finally, when the birds are no longer economic, catching gangs arrive and rip them feet first from their cages. Injuries are commonplace, but are of no economic consequence because the majority of battery hens are slaughtered and processed for things like chicken pies and pet food.

SOME COMMON MYTHS

When welcoming the new draft regulations on battery cage size, Mr Donald Thompson MP, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture remarked: "I am very much aware that intensive husbandry systems arouse strong feelings and that some people would like to see, in particular, the banning of battery cages for hens. To some extent I can understand these feelings but equally it has to be acknowledged that the systems do provide warmth and shelter, freedom from predators and low disease levels. They also ensure plentiful supplies of good quality eggs at prices which everyone can afford. At present there is no viable alternative to the battery cage." This is of course, the standard political rebuff (provided by those with an interest in the battery system) when questions are raised on this issue. However, it is worth examining Mr Thompson's remarks because they contain almost all of the absurd myths trotted blandly out in defence of the battery cage.

Mr Thompson begins, typically, by sympathising with those who oppose the battery system. By saying that "some people would like to see..." he implies that he is referring to some minority group or other. Yet a recent poll commissioned by Compassion in World Farming revealed that 67% of the public agreed that battery cages should be banned and only 18% actually disagreed. In fact "some people" might find battery cages acceptable, but the majority do not. "Warmth, shelter, and freedom from predators" are all things

Turning Point



Turning Point

The hens necks become raw and featherless because of constantly rubbing on the bars of their cages.

which could be applied to any well run free-range system. "Low disease levels" is a more intriguing point. The battery system is in fact a relatively recent farming development. In 1961 about 19% of eggs were produced by battery hens, now the figure stands at about 95%. Prior to that deep litter had been the source of most eggs and the battery system aimed to beat disease problems in that system; ironically, most of the problems could be put down to overcrowding. However, the battery system has brought all its own problems and its own peculiar diseases, for example, cage layer fatigue which involves lameness, paralysis, brittle bones, and stopping laying. Prolapses, egg peritonitis, fatty liver syndrome, and infectious bronchitis are further diseases that afflict the battery hen. Diseases that are now termed by the veterinary profession "diseases of intensification".

Finally, we are left with "good quality eggs". It is worth noting here that battery eggs are rather pale and unappetising - so additives are put into the chickens' food to ensure the yolks have a rich yellow colour.



Turning Point

Deceptive images are often used to label battery produce, as on these lorries

THE FUTURE

Consumer demand has already had a great impact on the egg industry, and a lot of supermarkets now stock free-range eggs. Never buy battery eggs, always ask for free-range and start eating less eggs, or consider giving them up altogether - doctors and nutritionists are now advising that we cut down on high cholesterol (fat) foods like eggs and meat, which are related to heart disease. For example, it is suggested that consumption of eggs is limited to three per week. Also, battery eggs will contain a residue of the chemicals fed to the hens to ward off diseases, as well as the colouring additives mentioned earlier. Remember also, that male chicks are a casualty of the egg industry, no matter how humane.

As far as legislation is concerned there is nothing unrealistic about hoping for a ban on the battery system. In 1981 Switzerland began a ten year programme to phase out battery cages. Farmers are encouraged to have smaller flocks by government subsidies. This need not mean increased subsidies, but merely the reallocation of existing ones.

Despite the size of the battery industry, we can see an end to this abuse. If we are to do so, we as consumers must not be fooled by the phoney welfare measures proposed in July. We must continue to use both our purchasing power, and our political power to this end.



Chickens' Lib

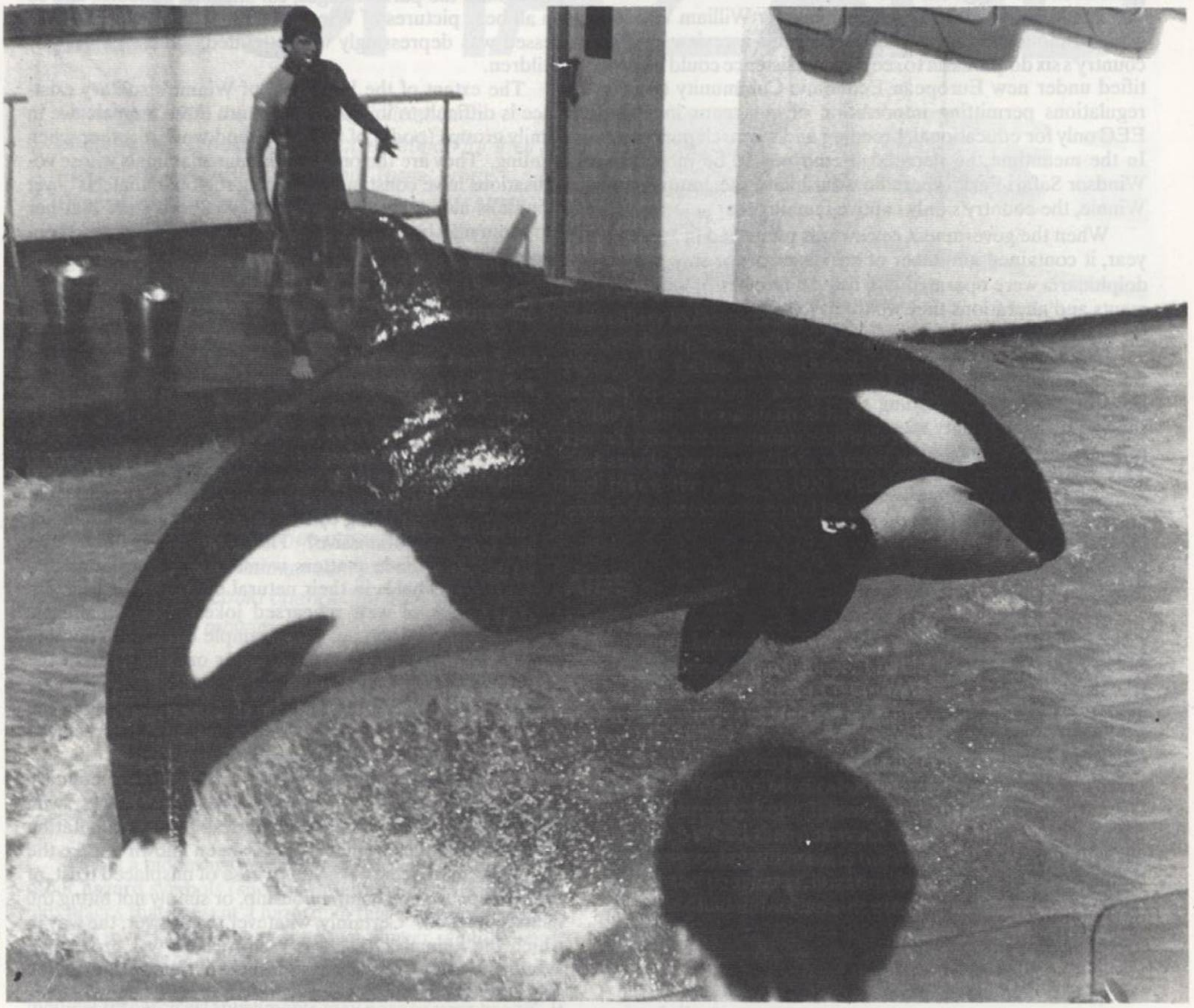
These are end of lay battery hens - the system has left them in a dreadful condition.



Turning Point

Free range chickens.

CAPTIVE WHALES



Turning Point

Winnie the captive orca at Windsor Safari Park during a "show"

THE STORY OF NEMO

by Kieran Mulvaney, Director of the Whale Conservation Society.

Sporadic attempts were first made to keep dolphins in captivity in Europe over one hundred years ago. But it wasn't until the success of America's Sea Worlds and Marinelands that the keeping of marine mammals truly became established as a lucrative commercial enterprise. However, the industry never developed to quite the extent that it did in Florida and California; indeed after a peak in the 1970s, Europe's dolphinaria have declined in popularity somewhat. Britain, in particular, has lately been witness to a determined and well-publicised campaign against the keeping of cetaceans in captivity - a campaign which culminated last year in the publication of a government report highly critical of many aspects of dolphinaria in the UK.

The development of the battle to close all of Britain's dolphin shows can be traced back directly to a spell of widespread public concern over the welfare of just one captive cetacean - an orca which went by the name of Nemo.

Nemo was one of three orcas captured in Icelandic waters in October 1981. Transported to England, the three males - which when mature, could have been expected to reach twenty-five feet in length - were confined to a converted swimming pool that was nowhere more than ten feet deep.

Within a week, one died of traumatic shock, the result of severe internal injuries probably inflicted by one of his companions. Eighteen months later, the second whale died - victim of a bout of peritonitis - leaving Nemo as the only male orca in captivity in Britain.

Already denied social contact with other orcas, an integral part of the species' behaviour in the wild, Nemo faced an additional problem: he was growing, but his pool wasn't. In 1985, concerned by Nemo's cramped quarters, Greenpeace demanded that he be released, or, failing that, at least moved to a larger pool. When his American owners refused, a Greenpeace team - trailing a camera crew from the Inde-

pendent Television News network - travelled to the US, chequebook in hand, apparently prepared to pay $400,000 or so for Nemo. The refusal of Nemo's owners to even met the conservationists merely served to increase the public's sympathy with the whale's plight; indeed, so widespread did this become that, by the autumn of 1985, the British government itself felt obliged to intervene.

The Minister for the Environment, Mr William Waldegrave, announced that he was setting up a review of the country's six dolphinaria to see if their existence could be justified under new European Economic Community (EEC) regulations permitting importation of cetaceans into the EEC only for educational, breeding and research purposes. In the meantime, he decreed, Nemo was to be moved to Windsor Safari Park, where he would have the company of Winnie, the country's only captive female orca.

When the government review was published in July last year, it contained a number of criticisms of the way British dolphinaria were operated and listed a number of improvements and alterations they would have to make if they were to be allowed to continue.

Critics of dolphinaria were disappointed that the reviewers apparently failed to make proper use of some submissions of evidence - including some data which seemed to show that the mortality rate of orcas, for example, was approximately ten times higher in captivity than in the wild. This would seem to provide a strong argument in favor of a complete ban on the keeping of cetaceans in captivity. Nonetheless, there is still hope that most, if not all, of the dolphinarium operators will be unable to afford the cost of fully implementing the report's recomendations, and will therefore have to close down anyway.

For the whale whose plight started it all, however, the future of Britain's dolphinaria is no longer of any consequence. Shortly after Nemo had been moved to Windsor, I went to see him for the first time, and found him resting his head against a viewing window in the wall of his pool, vocalising to himself as he rocked gently from side to side. As I watched silently, a crowd of schoolchildren tried to attract his attention by jeering and banging on the glass just inches from his face. It was, at least, an indignity Nemo did not have to endure for too long. As 1986 drew to a close, he became seriously ill with cancer. By the time his trainers noticed any symptoms, it was too late to do anything. Within days, he was dead.

WINNIE AT WINDSOR

Thankfully there are now just four dolphinaria left in Britain -Brighton, Morecambe, Windsor, Whipsnade - and it is realistic to believe that they will all close within the next few years. They are already under great pressure.

In July 1986, the Department of Environment published a report by Margaret Klinowska of Cambridge University, which was highly critical of the, then, six dolphinaria in Britain, making a number of recomendations for large scale reform. The proposals themselves would probably not have been met with much excitement from animal liberationists, had there net effect not been to make the cost of improvement prohibitive. Two have since fallen by the wayside, and the Zoological Society of London has said that rather than spend 750,000 on improving the dolpinarium at Whipsnade, they are considering closing it down and converting the premises for penguins. This document could, therefore, spell abolition for dolphinaria.

There is only one whale captive in this country and that is Winnie, the female orca held at Windsor Safari Park. On the basis of what has just been outlined, she will probably be the last (although this doesn't help Winnie). In August we visited Winnie at Windsor, where there are several Seaworld Shows daily; their commercial significance can be seen throughout the park - badges, car stickers, balloons, and so on all bear pictures of Winnie. The "performance" we witnessed was depressingly well attended, almost entirely by children.

The extent of the loneliness of Winnie's solitary existence is difficult to imagine. In nature these animals live in family groups (pods) of up to fifty and work together when hunting. They are the only non-human mammals whose vocalisations have constantly changing regional "dialects" - yet Winnie is alone. In fact, it might even be argued that her boredom may be relieved somewhat by the inane and repetive tricks she performs daily.

Winnie tops the bill of the Windsor Seaworld Show, following the seals and dolphins. The tone of the entire show is banal, seeing the animals as mere clowns. The defence of dolphinaria, as with other captive animals, is that it gives us a better understanding of wild animals and thus a greater respect for them. Can this seriously be argued when animals known to have great intelligence and communication skills are made to swim around and around a small pool, jump through hoops, hit balls with their noses, and wave flippers at the audience in pantomine-like routines? Can we engender respect for anything by making it look often ridiculous, and at all times submissive? The commentary throughout the show only made matters worse. No informative discourse about whales in their natural environment here; instead a series of well rehearsed jokes with the animals playing their part on cue. For example during the dolphin show, a dolphin rolls out of the water onto the side of the pool, "What's this?" says the grinning commentator, "gone on strike?" The dolphin remained there, only returning to the water after a kiss from the trainer. All of this was recieved with hoots of laughter by the audience.

Throughout the show much was made of the the animals' trust for the trainer, allowing him to ride on their backs, swim beside them, and so on. Actually, despite their reputation the so-called killer whale has never been known to take the life of a human being. Was this a case of misplaced trust, of desperation for any companionship, or simply not biting the hand that feeds? Certainly, whatever the answer, the way in which the animals' trust was reciprocated was grotesque. Windsor do however, appear sensitive to their image; at one stage the commentator remarked that people might be worried about the size of the pool in which Winnie performed. Don't worry she said, after the show Winnie swims completely free in half a million gallons of water! The audience grinned again, pleased that everything was humane and above board. By our calculation half a million gallons would be an area only 43.11ft by 43.11ft by 43.11ft. An orca can grow to be 32ft long.

The survival prospects for whales in British dolphinaria have not been good. In 1984, Greenpeace calculated that the average lifespan of the four orcas who died in captivity here was just 2 years 7 months. In the wild, orcas have been known to live to 65 years old.

As stated earlier, it seems likely that Winnie will be the last captive whale in this country and we should be working to ensure that this is so; Winnie has been condemned never to experience the freedom of the seas and companionship of her family again - let it end there.

Whale Conservation Society, 22 Hughenden Road, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon, BS23 2UR.

BIOHAZARD

On August 13th, the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) held a spectacular launch for their report, "BIOHAZARD - The Silent Threat From Biomedical Research And The Creation Of AIDS". The last issue of TURNING POINT featured the revealations from the 'Human AIDS' section of this report that AIDS was created in a laboratory. The remainder of the report details escapes of dangerous pathogens from laboratories, conditions and safety standards, the story of monkey AIDS, and the threat posed to public health by vivisection. BIOHAZARD states: "Aside from the grotesque cruelties inflicted on the animals trapped within their walls, we now know that vivisection laboratories pose a sinister and very real danger to human beings." Here we look at the book that could change the face of the anti-vivisection movement.



NAVS



"This is a biohazard symbol, it is used in the same way as other hazard symbols (such as radiation) to mark products and places that present a hazard, in this case, biological. It appears to be one of the least known danger symbols, yet it denotes one of the greatest human hazards.

This warning sign represents the very real threat that biomedical research establishments may pose to your health. If you were unaware of the biohazard symbol before you picked up this report, our aim is that you will be alerted to it by the time you have finished reading. Products and places marked 'BIOHAZARD' can and do affect YOU."

The Launch

The press launch of BIOHAZARD took place on a boat on the river Thames. At Lambeth pier, the press watched as a girl, half covered in a shroud, staggered off the boat assisted by two white-coated scientists. Six more people were carried out after her, each covered in a black shroud marked with a large white biohazard symbol. The scientists laid out the bodies on the quay, where they remained as the boat continued on its way. These were the first 'victims' and represented the people who would die of AIDS that day. The boat moved into the middle of the river and began to turn in front of the Houses of Parliament. The world's press watched as seventeen passengers, aged between sixteen and sixty-five and wearing biohazard lifejackets, clambered down scramble nets into waiting lifeboats, which were flying biohazard flags. These seventeen were then cast adrift - they represented the 170 people who develop full blown AIDS every day - a figure which increases by one every ten days. All of the figures for the day were based on World Health Organisation statistics. Meanwhile television monitors in the press lounge revealed facts and statistics about AIDS and a disembodied voice explained the action. As the lifeboats of victims disappeared, Jan Creamer of the NAVS gave details of the report to the assembled journalists.

In Search Of The Truth

The Report opens with a description of the clincical symptoms of AIDS and a very brief resume of the Report's findings. It is also stressed how the scientific community has failed to make any serious attempt to trace the origins of the disease. Even whilst prejudice and paranoia turned early AIDS victims into scapegoats, the biomedical community remained silent.

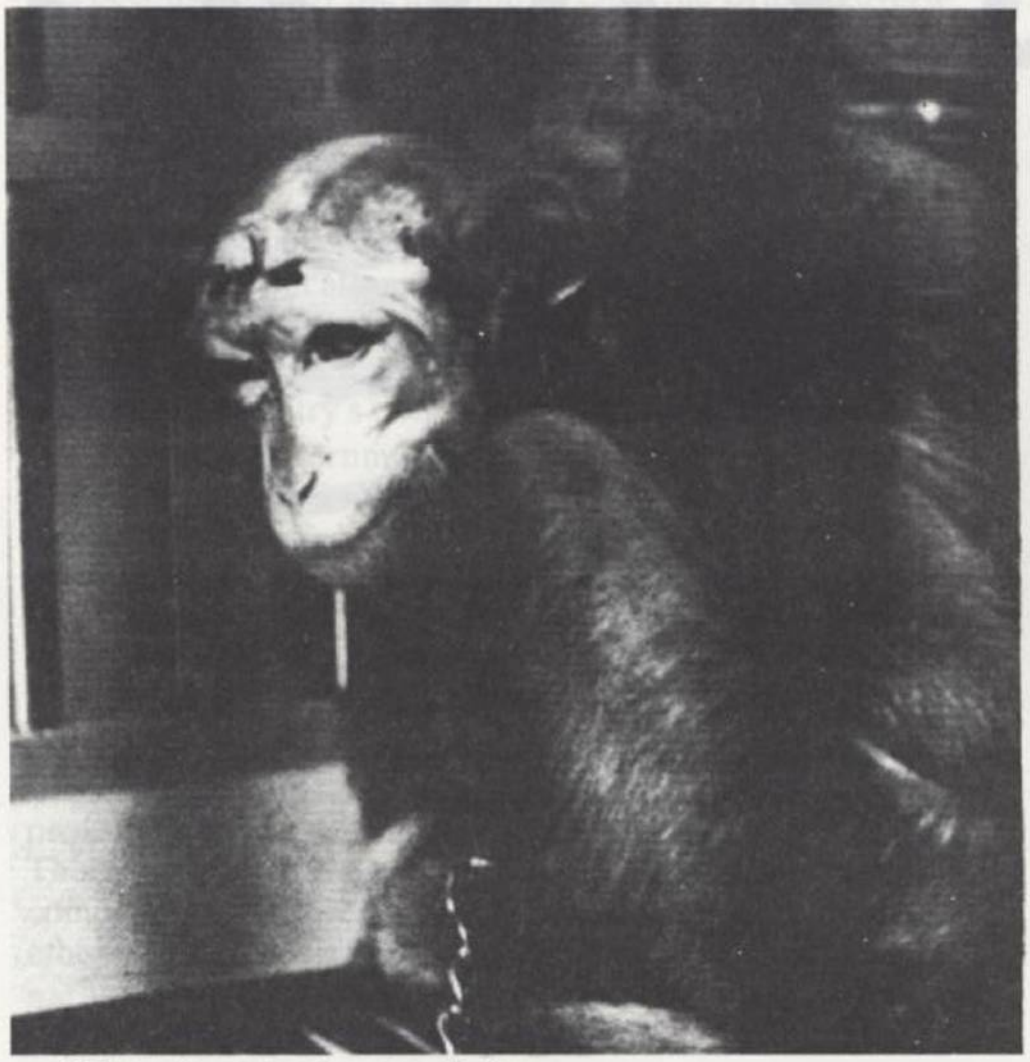
Viruses

The first chapter gives an introduction to viruses, which is aimed at people who have not picked up a biology book since they left school. Whilst the subject matter of this book is complex, because of the need to understand AIDS, every effort is made to put it within any reader's grasp, without over simplifying the issue. In fact, another sigfnificant aspect of this Report is that it shatters the myth that ordinary people, without a string of scientific qualifications after their name, can't understand scientific matters which concern their health. Most scientific literature is written in jargon, used to make knowledge inaccessible to the person in the street. In this way, the scientific community retains its position of authority within society - in much the same way as other 'professionals' or 'experts'. Vivisection kills people again and again, yet people still feel unable to question the actions of scientists for fear that an understanding of such issues may be beyond them.

Simian ÁIDS - A Parallel

Here the Report traces the origins of outbreaks of simian AIDS and AIDS-like diseases amongst primate colonies in

the USA during the 1960's and 1970's, the main trail leading back to occurances of leukaemia in gibbons used for malaria research at the South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) Medical Project in Bangkok, Thailand. Fed by the huge cash-flow and drives into cancer research all over



A laboratory primate cowers in its cage

the United States, disease was actively spread, apparently without thought for the risks involved.

Emphasis is placed upon the lack of a close enough genetic similarity for the simian AIDS virus, SIV, to be immediately related to the human AIDS virus, HIV (the Simian Immunodeficiency Virus and Human Immunodeficiency Virus, respectively). Thus, the simian AIDS story is just a parallel. The significance of the story is what it tells us about the attitudes of researchers to potentially lethal research and the disasterously haphazard methods that are employed.

What the monkey AIDS story demonstrates is the possibilities for viral mutation and recombination; the astounding lack of forethought and sheer callous indifference present within the biomedical community. The elements for the creation of uncontrollable disease were there. In addition we see how dangerous and unidentified viruses and cancer causing agents are allowed to traverse the globe as they are passed from laboratory to laboratory.

Where Did Human AIDS Come From?

The most favoured theory for the creation of HIV, the human AIDS virus, has been that it came from Africa and developed from the monkey AIDS virus. This was based, firstly, upon a test of human blood samples taken in four countries in Africa which showed apparent exposure to the virus, possibly as long ago as 1959. However, the testing tewchniques were old, and have been known to show false positives (meaning they show exposure to the virus when there had been none). This theory has been disproved by a later study using more up-to-date techniques and a wider blood sampling, which concluded that AIDS did not originate in Africa. Other studies have supported this new information. The Africa theory was based on the belief that HIV was a direct descendant of SIV, the simian AIDS virus, and caused by a bite to an African by an African green monkey. More is now known about the genetic structure of HIV and SIV, and leading AIDS experts have concluded that HIV is not closely enough related to SIV to have come from it recently enough to explain human AIDS.

The genes of the virus are discussed in detail and up to date evidence, taken from the published work of major AIDS researchers, is given to show how the most logical explanation of HIV is that it was created in a laboratory. HIV's lentivirus/SIV similarities are discussed, together with the possibilities of other recombination and mutation of viruses. The conclusion is that HIV is in fact the offspring of two viruses that met experimentally in a laboratory - a lentivirus and SIV. Since this chapter was covered in some detail in the last issue of TURNING POINT, I shall not go into further depth here.

The Biological Bomb

"As we have seen, the contents of many laboratories represent a bizarre cocktail of viruses, biological reagents, chemicals, cancer agents, and different species of animal which can best be described as a 'biological timebomb' just waiting to go off. There is already potential for disease to be transmitted from one species to another (cross-species infection) giving opportunity for mutation or recombination of harmless viruses into dangerous pathogens." (BIOHAZARD)

Here we see the numerous ways in which disease can escape from the laboratory, no matter how secure that laboratory supposedly is. Over a twenty five year period there were 423 cases of serious infection and three deaths recorded at the US Army Biological Warfare Establishment at Fort Detrick - a laboratory regarded as ultra safe - this is on average a serious accident every three or four weeks. Porton Down in Wiltshire is believed to have the highest containment facility in Europe, yet at least one laboratory infection viral haemorrhagic fever (for which there is no known cure) has been recorded and last year an AIDS vial exploded in a researchers hand due to a change in temperature.

Various escape routes for laboratory diseases are examined. It is revealed that hazardous waste is not always correctly treated and in one case at Birmingham University, in 1979, a photographer named Janet Parker died of smallpox after the virus escaped from the university smallpox lab via an airduct. The most common route to the outside world is believed to be experimental workers who become infected at work and unwittingly take that infection home with them. A mass of such infections are cited. An escape of smallpox from the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, in 1973, resulted in the deaths of the carrier and two people who had never entered the laboratory. A student in Minnesota died of staphylococcal septicemia three days after pricking her finger while attempting to inject a rabbit with a pure culture of staphylococcus. In Brazil an investigator died after handling blood from a monkey infected with yellow fever. In Marburg, Germany, 29 laboratory workers became infected and seven died after being exposed to tissues from African green monkeys which contained a virus which at the time had not been identified. At the National Institutes of Health, in the USA, Anna Pabst was injecting Neisseria meningitidis into an animal when the animal struggled and material from the syringe sprayed into her eye. She became ill four days later and died four days after that. In some cases, infections seem an almost regular occurance. Up until 1976, there had been 67 reported cases of laboratory acquired leptospirosis, ten of which were fatal. Rodents and dogs provide a natural reservoir for the bacteria which causes this disease and of the ten fatalities eight were either associated with working in the animal house or direct contact with rats. Another common laboratory infection is psittacosis, with 116 cases recorded by 1976 with fatalities. The disease is normally carried by birds. The list goes on for pages. It is a vivid illustration of just how dangerous animal

experimentation laboratories are - simply because of what they contain.

In the second section we see how primate laboratories are run on a day to day basis. The picture is one of incompetence, negligence, failure to enfore even the most basic safety precautions, and, of course, extreme misery for the animals within their walls. Documents from the Department of Experimental Psychology, Oxford University, are reproduced which show that hygiene there in the past has deteriorated to an abysmal level. Breakdowns in the systems of caging, heating, and venthilation are shown at even the most prestigious establishments such as the Royal College of Surgeons. Examples are given of how Medical Research Council recomended codes of practice are either ignored or simply fall into disuse. The chapter concludes:

"So, what is the final picture? Certainly a grim one in terms of suffering for the animals; but what about the consequences for us? We have provided evidence that the standard of management in these establishments is deplorable, with no serious moves for public safety or accountability. We have shown how potentially lethal centres are spread throughout the country, some in our most densly populated areas. Added to this are the laboratories which don't use primates, but other laboratory animals and the picture becomes larger still. Bear in mind that primates are probably the most expensive laboratory animal (a cynomolgus monkey from Shamrock Farms costs £297); for this reason alone you would expect the standard of animal management in primate laboratories to be higher than in other laboratories. The conclusion is that standards in other laboratories do not bear thinking about."

Aids Researcher Infected With HIV

As a chilling footnote to all of this, New Scientist reported on 10th September, 1987, that a laboratory worker with the National Institutes of Health, in the USA, had been infected with the AIDS virus after working with it in the laboratory. Laboratory tests showed that the viral strain found in the worker was identical to the one we had been handling. It was added that laboratory workers handling the virus had been infected in the past, but all such cases were attributed to known risk factors such as sexual practices.

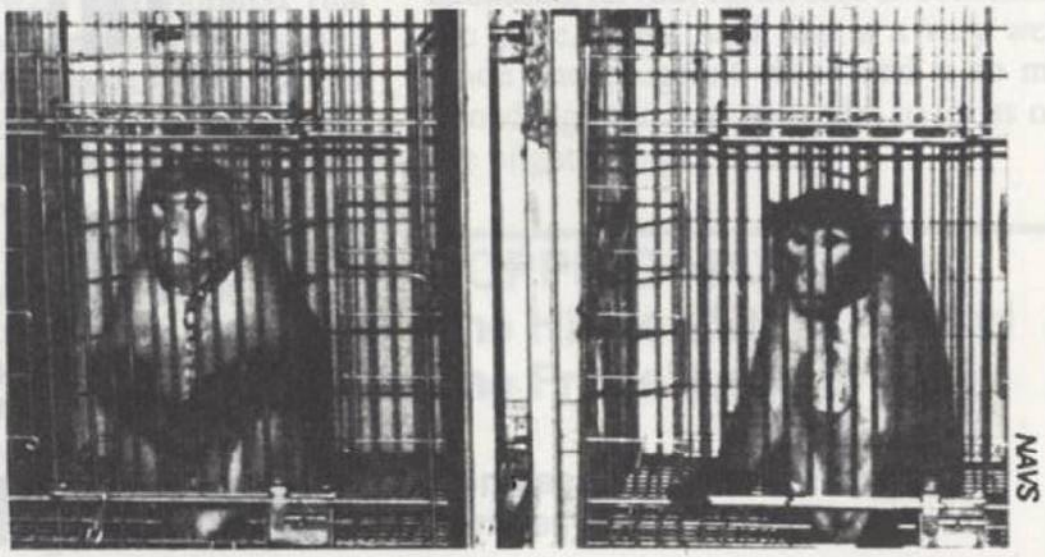


CALL

Decomposing primate head found on the derelict site of Animal Suppliers (London) Ltd., Herts. Under MRC safety guidelines primate bodies should be sealed in a double layer of plastic bags and incinerated.

Where Do We Go From Here

This chapter outlines numerous ways in which Biohazard can be utilised to bring about the abolition of vivisection. The main aim is to get the anti-vivisection movement to employ the same tactics that anti-nuclear protestors have found so successful when opposing the dumping of nuclear waste. Suggestions are made how parliament and local government can act to protect local residents from the contents of laboratories in their area. Demands are made for greater public accountability for the animal experimentation industry, public enquiries in laboratory accidents, compensation to victims of laboratory accidents, and so on.



NAVS

World Without End

The appendix to Biohazard is a survey of people's awareness to the biohazard symbol and is based on an independent survey commissioned this year by the NAVS. The results display a massive public ignorance of biological hazards. Some 46% were aware of what the radiation symbol, for instance, meant, whereas only 3% could identify the biohazard symbol. When given the verbal clue that it was to do with biological hazards, most believed this meant it was something to do with washing powder. The ignorance of special groups, people who might have to deal with a biohazard in the course of their work such as police, firemen, laboratory workers, was worse still. Only 2% of those questioned recognised the symbol. Some of the answers could even be amusing if ir were not for the underlying danger. A member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons thought that it meant dangerous birds, others thought it was freemasons, a foreign flag, and so on. As Biohazard points out, people really are dying of ignorance.

Biohazard attacks biomedical research from almost every concievable angle and provides the most damning indictment of vivisection to date. The fact that AIDS was manufactured in a laboratory should be enough on its own to bring about the abolition of animal experiments, yet Biohazard goes even further. It is important that you read this book and then tell everyone what you have read.

BIOHAZARD is available for £3 (inc p&p) from NAVS, 51 Harley Street, London W1.

THE LAW STILL ALLOWS PEOPLE TO SQUIRT WEEDKILLER IN A BABY'S EYES, INJECT IT WITH POISON, GROW CANCERS ON ITS BACK, BURN ITS SKIN OFF, EXPOSE IT TO RADIATION AND EVENTUALLY KILL IT, IN UNRELIABLE EXPERIMENTS.



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Please post to: National Anti-Vivisection Society Ltd, 51 Harley Street, London W1N 1DD.

NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY

ANIMAL VIDEOS

Recently animal welfare/rights organisations have begun independently producing videos about various aspects of animal abuse. Here we look at the main ones currently doing the rounds.

FOOD FOR PROTEST

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - 20 mins

Price: £21.85(inc p&p) from Viscom, Parkhall Trading Estate, London SE21 8EC.

Written requests for loan: RSPCA Education Dept, The Causeway, Horsham, Sussex.

The film opens with a very brief potted history of protest, from the Jarrow march to war - "the ultimate form of protest". I found this a little obscure.

The film then turns to pictures of a concentration camp. The narrator asks, if we can do this to our own kind, it is no great leap of the imagination that we will do more to animals. We are taken to a large and very modern battery unit; the hens are obviously new and look healthy, but the abuses of the cage are pointed out, as are the extremes of automation - egg collection, and an electrified wire to stop the hens pecking their own eggs. I was pleased to see that they were equally critical of perch or barn eggs - which were described as simply a large cage. An overcrowded perchery is shown, and conditions are quite obviously appalling.

The RSPCA were not allowed to film inside a crated veal unit, but succeeded in obtaining footage of a strawyard system. This is also heavily critised and it is pointed out that animals are ill, and will die of anaemia if they are not slaughtered quickly enough.

We are taken onto an intensive pig farm where we see piglets being reared in metal boxes, sows in sow stalls, and farrowing crates. The narrator remarks "profit margins on individuals are low, so is welfare", at the same time we see a piglet being born onto the harsh metal slats of a farrowing crate. In contrast we see free range pigs in a natural environment.

Livestock markets are also condemned, in particular the grotesque practice of punching a hole through the ear of an animal which has been sold for slaughter. The film recommends contract purchase as an alternative to livestock markets. This entails a direct deal with a slaughterhouse, cutting out the middle man, and is the way most pigs are sold.

Throughout, we are reminded how protest has been conducted in other areas - for example the Vietnam horrors and the resultant protests are shown. The viewer is also urged to write letters of protest and talk to their butcher about free range meat. I was disappointed that there was no condemnatio whatsoever about eating dead animals. I was also disappointed by the promotion of experiments at Oxford University's Zoology department to see which husbandry methods are cruel or not. I have always believed that anyone with commonsense or a sense of justice can see that factory farming is wrong - it does not take laboratory studies.

A film well worth watching, though, of course, more concerned with animal welfare than animal rights. Nevertheless I was suprised by the strength of the attack on factory farming. Definately a powerful and informative tool which should be shown to audiences of all ages, and especially to political groups.

SCREAMING FOR CHANGE - The Campaign Against Sow Tethering

Compassion In World Farming - 9 minutes

Price: £12.50 (inc p&p).

CIWF, 20 Lavant Street, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3EW.

The video starts with a screaming, tethered sow. We are later to see that this was her reaction, panic and terror, the moment she realised that she had been tethered. We are informed that a sow may scream like his for up to 45 minutes when she is first tethered in a stall.

Two thirds of the bacon consumed in this country comes from sow stalls. This grossly cruel system was imported over 20 years ago: The sow is kept in in a metal stall so narrow that she cannot turn around or lie down properly on the concrete floor; the frustration and deprivation of such a system is obvious. Carol Long of CIWF, speaking in front of a field of free range pigs, later points out how obviously unnatural and cruel sow stalls are.

The video is an attack on the worst abuses of the pig industry; sow stalls, tethering, and farrowing crates. Alternatives to these are promoted. A farmer points out that when he had sow stalls, they were convenient but produced health problems and so now he keeps his pigs in straw yards. The system of giving the animals individual computerised collars to aid feeding is also promoted,as are farrowing nests as an alternative to farrowing crates. The film is very factual, and various government reports are quoted, all calling for an end to tethering.

I was disappointed that there was no criticism of eating pigs. I realise that the aim of the video is to play a part in a campaign to actually bring about the abolition of an exceptionally cruel system. However, I felt that the anti-meat message could have been gently inserted without alienating fervent carnivores or confusing the issue. That said this is a very well made and poignant video and is to my knowledge the first such film to focus on the plight of pigs.

HOPPING MADNESS - The Hidden Story Behind The Frogs' Legs Trade

Compasion In World Farming - 9 minutes

Price £12.50 (inc p&p).

CIWF, 20 Lavant Street, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 3EW.

A couple go into a restaurant and order frogs' legs, which are cooked and served; the film then cuts into a scenic shot of Indian paddy fields and a discussion of frogs in their natural environment. Next, a shocking scene of live and concious frogs being cut in half on an upright blade appears - this is how 300 million frogs are killed every year. The front halves of these frogs can live for up to an hour. The filthy conditions inside a factory follow, where the skin is ripped off the dead animals.

The film stresses how the frogs' legs trade has disrupted the Indian lifestyle, causing havoc with the ecological balance: Without the frogs; pests have run rife and rice growers have had to turn to insecticides like DDT, certain birds are now endangered, and rodent populations are growing out of control.

The French ate their own frog supply to extinction long ago, and India became the premier supplier. Now India has banned export of frogs legs, Europe has turned to Bangladesh and Indonesia to satisfy its palate.

The frogs' legs trade stands condemned on so many levels, more pressure from the public should ensure it is finished off. The recent Indian ban shows this can be done, and CIWF's well produced video will be a useful weapon in helping to speed matters up. A must for public, local authority and school viewing.

SENTENCED FOR LIFE

Chickens' Lib - 35 minutes

Price £14 (a double tape with Chicken for Dinner?) inc p&p

Chickens' Lib, PO Box 2, Holmfirth, Huddersfield, HD7 1QT

This is without doubt the most informative video about battery farming available - as you would expect from Chickens' Lib. If anything the film's only real weakness is that it attempts to get too much in and as a result seems a liitle long.

"Sentenced for LIfe" is very professionally made with a commentary from Joanna Lumley; footage shot inside the battery unit is good -and does look like a functioning farm, not somewhere on an open day. (In other words the birds don't look as bright and healthy as they do in the RSPCA film where they have clearl just been caged). One thing I was reall pleased to see was an outside shot of a battery farm - so many people must drive past these buildings with no conception o what is inside.

The evidence of the bad physical condition of the chickens when they raech their end of laying period is very striking, and further damns the battery cage.

This is the ideal film if you want to educate your audience on the facts about battery hens; cage sizes (the space made available to each bird is vividly demostrated against a telephone book cover), legislative moves and so forth are covered in detail.

CHICKEN FOR DINNER ?

Chickens' Lib - 15 minutes

Price £14 (includes Sentenced for life on same tape) inc p&p

Chickens' Lib, PO Box 2, Holmfirth, HD7 1QT.

Another slick production from Chickens' Lib with once again a voiceover by Joanna Lumley. Chicken for Dinner is about the broiler industry - the chief source of chickens for table consumption. As with Sentenced for Life, you are given all of the facts, from leglislative moves to stocking densities. The films' only real drawback is that it does not actually include any film of the inside of a broiler shed. There are, of course, descriptions of the conditions, and the amount of space each bird has in a typical broiler shed is simulated by putting about a dozen broiler hens in a measured enclosure. However, as you can imagine this does not give a really vivid picture of what a shed with tens of thousands of birds in is like.

The main reason to recomend this video to anyone is the same as that with anything produced by Chickens' Lib - they really know their stuff. So although there could be better visual evidence, it is unlikely that a better source of factual information could be put on video.

DIRECT ACTION AGAINST THE POULTRY TRADE

Animal Liberation Front - 23 minutes

Price £6.50 (inc p&p)

ALF Supporters' Group, BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX.

The film opens with a series of shocking film clips: chickens having their beaks burnt off with a hot blade (being debeaked); end of lay hens being ripped from their cages feet first; and birds being slaughtered. These are broken up with adverts, with slogans like, "for eggs fresh as a daisy". There is no commentary throughout the video.

The first section, with just a musical backing track, deals with broiler chickens and shows inside a large shed where there are tiny chicks of probably only a day or two old. The section ends with ALF activists rescuing chicks.

Next is the battery system. We are shown inside a battery shed, followed by birds being liberated by activists. In addition to good general shots of the inside of a battery shed there are; close-ups of the birds' feet on the mesh floors of their cages, the piles of excrement beneath the cages, and a bird is held in front of a cage with its wings outstretched to show how confined they are.

This video contains excellent footage of inside factory farms, it is a pity that the lack of commentary probably makes it rather inaccesible to the uninformed. However, it would be an excellent video to accompany a talk on the poultry industry

GRANGE FARM

Animal Liberation Front Investigation Unit

Price £6.50 (inc p&p)

ALF Supporters' Group, BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX.

This video shows counditions found earlier this year on Grange Farm, an experimental unit run by Wellcome Pharmaceuticals; goats, horses, pigs, and donkeys feature in the various buildings entered by the Investigation Unit. A pig is shown with long parallel sores running down its back, which are clearly causing it discomfort. Surgery on the horses' necks had left open wounds dripping pus. There is an informative commentary throughout and final shots of the rescue of one horse and a donkey, giving the film a lightly happier ending than expected.

This is a rather more constructive picture than usually presented of the Animal Liberation Front. The film concentrates upon the issues involved and has more of the feel of a documaentary, the people concerned simply enabling the viewer to see conditions at the farm.

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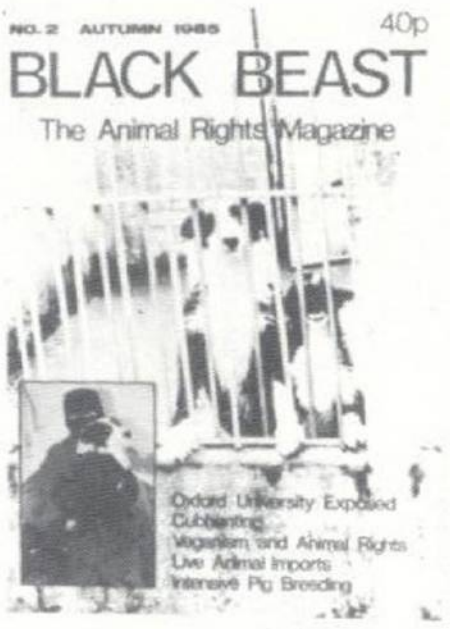
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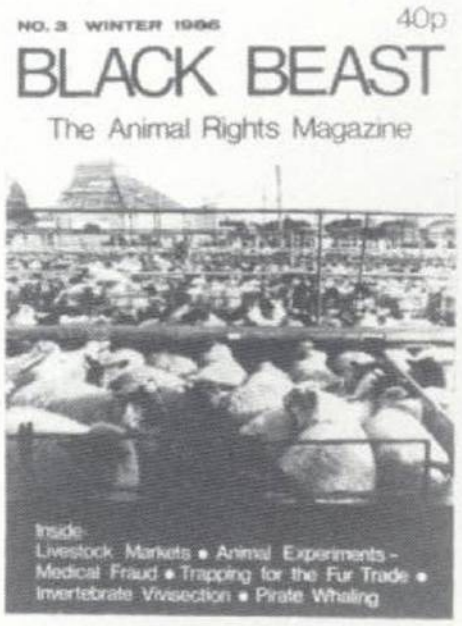
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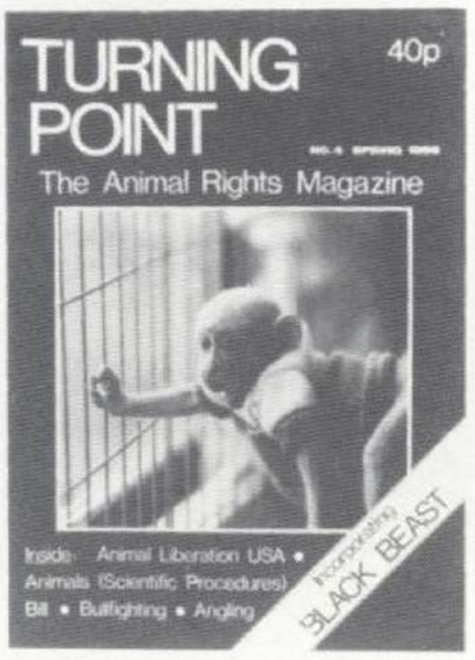


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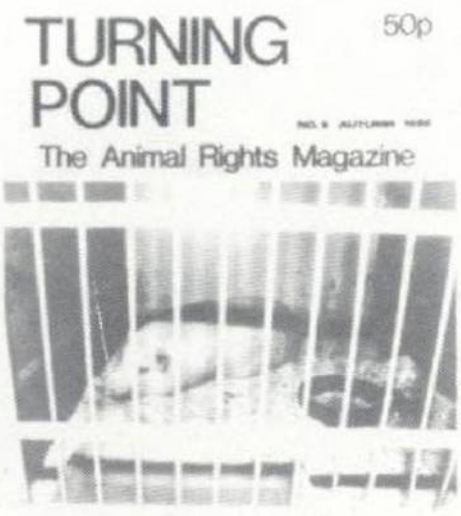
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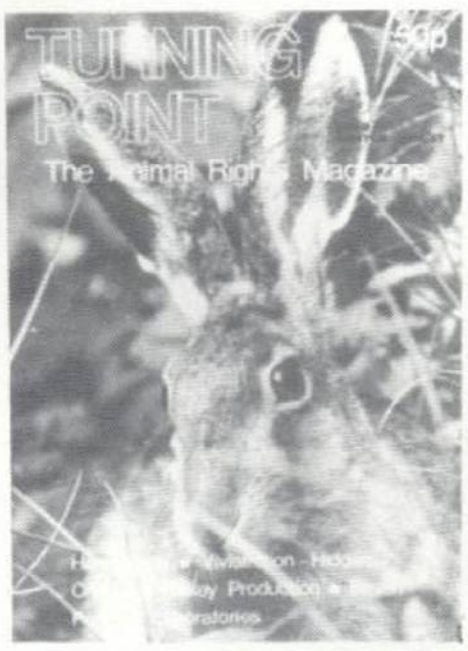
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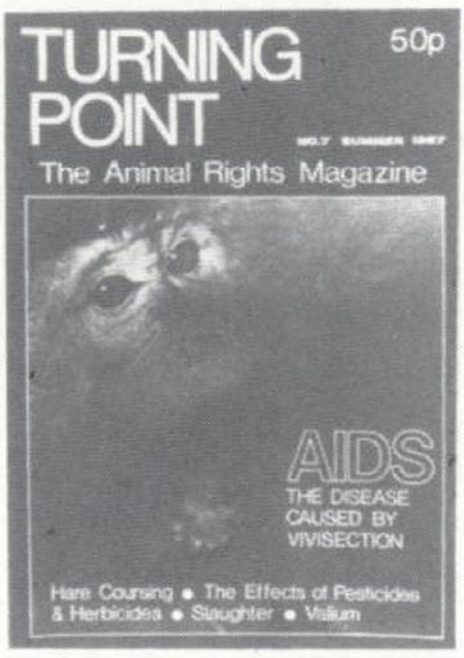
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