# MEETING THE PEOPLE AND IDEAS OF THE ANIMAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT



***"what is most fearful is doing nothing as our one earth and her animal children are ruthlessly exploited and destroyed"***
*Rod Coronado*

This booklet was composed for you to meet the people behind the Animal Liberation Front. We have taken several interviews with activists who have been imprisoned in the past for A.L.F. activities. Also included are several background- and informational articles about actions against mink farming and laboratories. Get informed and involved. The animals need you!!

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All the articles are taken from the Direct Action magazine No Compromise. We thank them for being there and advise you to check out their website or their magazine.


NoCompromise
P.O.Box 1440
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Voice: (831) 425-3007
Web: www.nocompromise.org


*No Compromise* is dedicated to unifying the grassroots animal liberationists by providing a forum where activists can exchange information, share strategy, discuss important issues within the movement, network with each other in an open and respectful environment and strengthen the grassroots.

## Animal Liberation Front guidelines.

1. To liberate animals from places of abuse, i.e. laboratories, factory farms, fur farms, etc, and place them in good homes where they may live out their natural lives, free from suffering.
2. To inflict economic damage to those who profit from the misery and exploitation of animals.
3. To reveal the horror and atrocities committed against animals behind locked doors, by performing non-violent direct actions and liberations.
4. To take all necessary precautions against harming any animal, human and non-human. Any group of people who are vegetarians or vegans and who carry out actions according to A.L.F. guidelines have the right to regard themselves as part of the A.L.F.

The Animal Liberation Front consists of small autonomous groups of people all over the world who carry out direct action according to the A.L.F. guidelines. These groups are called cells that range from one individual to many individuals working closely together. Activists in one cell do not know A.L.F. activists in another cell because they remain anonymous. This is what helps to keep activists out of jail, and free to be active another day. Since there is not a central organization or membership guide to the A.L.F., people are driven only by their own personal conscience or cell decisions to carry out actions. The A.L.F. is non-hierarchical in it's structure which allows for only those people involved directly in the action to control their own destiny. Anyone in your community could be part of The A.L.F. without you knowing. This includes P.T.A. parents, church volunteers, your spouse, your neighbour, or your mayor. No one is immune to the suffering of animals, which includes even the workers themselves in any animal abuse industry who cannot bear to watch animals withering in pain any longer. Any action that adheres to the strict non-violence guidelines, which follow, can be considered an A.L.F. action. Economic sabotage and property destruction are considered A.L.F. actions, as well as live liberations. Volunteers carry out actions across the world to bring animal liberation a little closer to the victims of untold agony. Since there isn't a way to contact the A.L.F. in your area, it is up to each of us to take the responsibility ourselves to stop the exploitation of fellow animals. In the words of a convicted A.L.F. activist "when you see the pictures of a masked liberator, stop asking who's behind the mask and look in the mirror!"

## Revolutionary Process and the A.L.F.

*by Nicole Atwood.*

One day an "animal lover," out of curiosity, stops at a frozen pond to investigate bright flags sticking out of muskrat mounds and finds leghold traps stuck deep in the nest of reeds and mud. Fortunately, the traps are empty, but she can't help but think of the potential victims. She pulls up the stakes, holding the traps secure and takes home as many as she can carry. She feels a mixture of fear and excitement, but overall she's happy knowing that at least the traps in her garbage will never kill an animal. This, in the simplest terms, is an ALF action-destroying the physical property of an individual or business to benefit an animal, either directly or indirectly. The "animal lover" may become an activist, and as an activist, she'll protest and work to educate others, but in her mind remains the memory of destroying the traps, the small victory. There is a theory that the reason the use of "violence" by political groups has not caught on in the U.S. to the extent it has in other countries is because most Americans believe that there are agencies and institutions that exist to peacefully resolve conflicts, and that this belief is a barrier against participating in political violence. Perhaps in relation to animals this theory collapses, and it is here that the existence of the ALF can be explained. Crimes of enormous proportion against animals are commonly ignored by the legal system. Battery cages and veal crates are accepted as "normal agricultural practice." Billions of chickens and turkeys are denied even the illusion of humane slaughter. Birds, mice and fish in laboratories are denied the most basic of legal protections. In some states, animals in farms are

specifically written out of laws against cruelty. Of course, opposition-the desire to make a fundamental change in society by throwing oneself against the atrocity of animal abuse-is the right thing to do. The debate over the ALF has never been a question of what is morally justified. How to best bring about change, though, is open to debate. Everyone involved in the animal liberation movement has doubts about the effectiveness of their actions and is searching for the best way to fight animal abuse and exploitation. Most people find the answer is that different tactics and strategies fit different contexts and that one way to defend animals does not have to replace other types of activism. Perhaps the biggest debate is over so-called violence versus non-violence. There are no arguments for or against either approach that would prove it is universally superior or inferior to the other, or that one will inevitably have really good or really bad effects. To the defence of the ALF, it is certain that the ALF has rescued animals. Well-thought-out releases from fur farms and liberations from research labs have saved animal lives that you can count. Destroying a slaughterhouse or a fur-farm feed wholesaler does not save animals in an easily quantifiable manner, but may save animals nonetheless through monetary loss, inconvenience, fear, etc., that may dissuade one last breeding season or spur an exploiter's early retirement. "Violence" or "terrorism" has long expressed the most important social, religious and historical forces in this country and in others around the world. To be fair, much of the criticism of the ALF is justified. The ALF is not revolutionary. It will not bring about fundamental change in society to benefit animals by itself. But ALF actions can be a part of a revolutionary process and can have very important and necessary effects for animals who are suffering. The ALF has not been proven ineffective. What has been pointed out is that acts born out of frustration, impatience and impulse do not bring results. In "Making Our Actions Count," in the #9 issue of No Compromise, Dari Fullmer wrote that "direct action without strategy is useless." Although random actions may not be entirely useless, the point of choosing targets strategically is important. Direct action activists have to set priorities and be careful to make each effort count. Realistically, we are all limited in the time and energy we can commit to activism (of any kind). We only have a few chances; actions should be more than just symbolic-don't sit in jail for breaking a window at your local McDonald's. Research and planning are essential to be effective. This should mean fewer actions, but bigger, more focused actions intended to weaken or remove a vital link in an animal abuse industry. Activists must get to know their local animal industry and the role it plays at the national and local levels. An industry is made up of many different levels, from the farmers, the animal transporters and the slaughterhouses, to the processors and down to the retail end. Also included are industry research centers, promotional groups, industry publications, advertising agencies, etc. Every larger community in this country has at least one company that plays an important role in the larger industry, making the abuse and exploitation of animals profitable. The Western Wildlife Unit of the ALF in the early 1990s, as well as some recent actions targeting the fur industry, showed us the way. By targeting the research that kept the fur industry prosperous and the fur feed co-ops that provide assistance to farmers, they attacked a weak link in the industry, making an enormous impact. If they had chosen to target the retail end and instead destroyed fur stores, they would have made the evening TV news, but insurance would likely rebuild the store and the industry would be little the worse. Within an industry, for the most part, the results are not worth the risk to attack retail outlets. What industry should the ALF target? Is it better to target a greater evil (such as the meat industry) or plan for a greater impact (by hitting the weakened fur industry)? Setting priorities is another important step in successful strategy. The meat industry: Internationally, the U.S. is the world's largest exporter of bird carcasses and other animal "products." Companies like Tyson and Hormel aggressively target overseas markets. Nationally, the meat industry is equally overwhelming. Huge companies like IBP, ConAgra, National Beef Packing and Perdue Farms kill billions of animals every year. There are approximately 5,000 commercial poultry and livestock farms in the U.S., approximately 300 large meat-packing plants nationwide and another 6,000 small- and medium-sized meat-packing facilities. Fighting the meat industry statewide or regionally is the only realistic option. The livestock haulers, the auction yards, the slaughterhouses and farm supply companies are examples of vulnerable links at this level. What are the weak industries? We're familiar with fur, but there's also horse-slaughter, the veal industry, foie gras, dog-racing and circuses with animals, among

others. For example, circuses remain extremely vulnerable to sabotage. The few dozen circuses that remain in this country are dependent on their means of transportation. A few (empty!) destroyed trucks can stop a circus in its tracks, literally. Many of these circuses survive performance by performance (season by season), and the loss of revenue due to cancelled performances could seal their end. ALF actions are dynamic and inspirational. The ALF can interrupt the dreariness of everyday campaigning with drama that reveals the animal rights struggle at its most essential level, if only for a short time. ALF actions can be a symbol of the revolutionary potential of our movement. The anonymous activist who destroyed muskrat traps acted out of moral duty without thinking of educating the public or hoping for media attention, and, if only temporarily, refused to accept the confines of the law. This A.L.F. has great potential! *article first published in No Compromise #11.

## A First Hand Account of a Mink Raid.

The following is the story of just one of the many mink farm raids that have taken place in North America in the past year and one-half. Late one night, I sat on a small patch of grass under the stars, listening to the dried leaves rustle in the wind. A few moments had passed when I saw the headlights of a small vehicle turn the corner and head towards me. After loading my gear into the trunk, I climbed into the front seat and exchanged anxious smiles with the driver. She gave my hand a quick squeeze before steering the car (rented in an untraceable manner*) back onto the road. We were on our way. As we drove, the sun came up. Stopping only to eat and refuel the car, we continued driving all day. A few hours after the sun had disappeared, we met up with another man, well known to us and trusted wholeheartedly. Together we headed to a dark clearing near a small lake and sat and discussed our plans. Afterwards, taking special care to be sure we didn't have unwelcome company, we hit the road and headed for our final destination. Using detailed maps, we made many, many turns off the main road. We found the address we were looking for and quickly found some thick brush where we hid the car from sight. We had brought with us a radio scanner which had already been programmed to monitor all the local and state law enforcement frequencies. One of my comrades double-checked that it was working and that the controls were set appropriately, secured it in her jacket pocket and inserted the small earphone in her left ear, leaving the other ear unobstructed. Throughout the reconnaissance and the raid, she would listen carefully in case the farmer or a neighbour reported any suspicious activity or in case an undetected alarm caused an officer to be dispatched to the farm. We also made sure that no one was carrying any loose articles, wearing jewelry or anything else that could inadvertently be left behind. The last thing we did was hide the door key near the car so no one would be carrying it. (If that person should run into trouble, the others would have no mode of transportation.) Our pockets were empty except for the scanner, flashlight, and gloves. We were ready to go.

### RECONNAISSANCE.

Our team knew how important it was to be familiar with the area, so we scouted around on foot for about an hour. Of course, while on or near roads, anytime we saw or heard a car in the distance we hit the ground or bush and made ourselves invisible. We located a creek which ran through the area nearby and out to open, wilder spaces. We also made note of the darkest areas for hiding and which side of the country road was least lit. We set up an emergency rendezvous point in case we were separated. When the wind was just right, it carried the stench of the fur farm to us--an overwhelming assault on our senses. When I inhaled I could taste the blood and filth, I could hear the cries of pain, I could see the suffering, and I could feel the terror of this place. It was (and is) pure evil. We cut across several large fields to get to the back fence of the mink farm. When walking in open spaces, we hunched over and let our arms hang down so that, if anyone was watching, we wouldn't look human. As we travelled, we often had to pull strands of barbed wire apart and squeeze through to get past perimeter fences. We made friends with the many cows and other animals we passed on our way towards the farm. After checking for alarms, trip wires, and video cameras, we easily climbed the back fence and entered the concentration camp. Still

watching carefully for alarms, etc., we hurried through the many sheds. Our presence brought the many thousands of mink to attention. They became very excited, rustling around in their tiny cages and "talking" to each other with short, high-pitched squeaks. With our small flashlights, we could see their curious little faces and inquisitive eyes--truly beautiful animals! I imagined the fate that would have awaited them if we had not come to intervene: their necks snapped or their lungs filled with gas after a few more months of enduring the psychological and physical torture of being imprisoned in this hell. We took note of the cages: four rows in each shed. Filthy, corroded cages which provided no bedding for mink who normally nest in the wild. Simple latches held most cages shut, but some (the breeders) had a piece of heavy-gauge wire twisted around the wires of the cage, securing the doors. Our reconnaissance told us what we needed to know and we retreated to the back of the field that ran behind this farm. We sat under an old willow tree for a few hours, watching the compound to see if anyone was aware of our intrusion. On this evening we would leave the animals behind, but we would return. We hiked through the fields and creeks, back to the vehicle, and drove for about an hour. We then camped for the remainder of the morning. At mid-morning we rose and began to further discuss a plan of action, detailing tools we would need and delegating duties. We had brought with us a radio scanner, dark disposable clothing, flashlights, wire cutters, gloves, spray paint, and ski masks. We would need to purchase packaged envelopes, paper, and stamps (to send a communique after the action), as well as back-up batteries. We fuelled up the car and drove by our target once (and only once) during the daylight to further familiarize ourselves with the surroundings. The rest of the afternoon and evening was spent taking apart all our equipment and wiping it down inside and out. We went over every detail of the plan in our heads and prepared ourselves mentally for whatever we might encounter, including any consequences we might face. It began to rain. We double-checked our inventory of equipment and then set out. We made our way back to the concentration camp, again making sure we were not followed. Just like the night before, we checked and secured the scanner, emptied our pockets, and hid the key to the vehicle. Again, we followed the road part way, diving to the ground with the coming of headlights, and then crept through the dark, still fields, towards the many mink awaiting their freedom.

**LIBERATION.**

We opened the cages. After opening roughly one dozen cages in the dark, I paused for a brief moment to shine my flashlight across them and caught sight of a shiny, sleek figure, hopping out of her hellhole. The mink scurried across the ground and out of the barn. While I wanted to focus and appreciate each and every animal as he or she found the way to freedom, I knew I couldn't do so at the expense of those who would be left behind. I had to spend every moment on the farm opening cages to allow as many as possible a fighting chance at a natural life. I continued my work, frantically unlatching and cutting wires. While I worked, several mink ran across the top of the cages while others scurried about my feet, squeaking with joy. Before long, these feisty critters were all over the place, running this way and that, playing and fighting with each other. Now and then I would briefly stop my work to separate two of the little guys and shoo them towards the outer fences where they would find their freedom.
RUN LITTLE GUYS, RUN!

**A SUSPICIOUS NOISE.**

Suddenly I heard--or thought I heard--a slamming noise. "The mink have woken the farmers," I thought. "Here he comes." I looked to the end of the barn towards the farmer's house. Struggling to adjust my focus for such a distance in the darkness, I made out a light coloured, upright figure. Were my eyes playing tricks on me or was someone standing there? I grew very uneasy and almost nauseous, as I imagined "Farmer John," angry as a wasp evicted from her nest (but much more dangerous), standing in the doorway, holding a rifle. I prepared myself for the worst and tried again in vain to focus on the end of the shed. Better safe than sorry, I reminded myself, and quickly left the shed. I looked for my partners, and, not finding them, my anxiety increased. I moved across the adjacent field and hid in some thick, dark bushes, and watched the farm for about 20 minutes. I saw nothing out of the ordinary and no lights were

turned on, so I eventually crept back and cautiously re-entered the compound. I ducked into the sheds where my friends were working, to be certain that all was well. I found them working away undeterred. I went back to my shed and continued opening the cages. The work was exhausting and I could feel my bones ache with the monotony of the routine. But I kept going--I could never live with myself if I didn't open as many cages as was humanly possible. I lost count at 500.

**TIME TO MOVE ON.**

I finished my shed and checked on the others to see if they needed help. Finding their sheds empty, I moved on to the next one, and we finished that one off together. Sadly, we came to our pre-designated cut-off time. Though there were many more sheds full of prisoners, we had to leave--the farmers would wake soon and the rise of the sun would provide no cover for ours and the minks' escape. We marked some of the now empty sheds with spray paint and then retreated. As we fled, we chased many mink to the holes cut in the fence. Once on the other side, we stopped for a moment to watch the many dark figures gliding and scampering through the fields towards the creek which would lead them to their new prospective homes. Using the moon as our guide, we found our way back to our hidden vehicle. We briefly shared our experiences as we walked--one of our team had been bitten while attempting to open a cage. All of us had found several mink dead and decaying in their cages. We piled our soaked, sore, and muddied bodies into the car. We made frustrated faces at each other as we were excited but knew we could not talk in the car. We drove silently back down the dark roads to our campsite, where we sorted out our things, throwing all clothes and shoes into the campfire, and placing tools into bags to be discarded safely and immediately. We talked a little more about our experiences, including what we could do better next time. We made plans to meet again, and shared warm hugs before embarking on our long journey home. During the following day's drive, we heard news reports of the raid on the radio. We smiled proudly with the satisfaction that many mink had a chance at freedom that day, that the fur trade had just become a little less profitable, and that "Farmer John" just might go out of business.

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## All you should know about mink and their survival after being liberated from fur farms.

*By Rod Coronado.*

On October 23, 1995 the Animal Liberation Front (A.L.F.) opened the cages on the Dargatz Mink Farm in British Columbia, Canada freeing 2,400 mink into the surrounding countryside. The liberation from the Dargatz Mink Farm was the first in what now has become 12 liberation raids by the A.L.F. of fur farms in North America in less than a year. The result has been the release of approximately 11,000 mink, 30 fox and one coyote from the intensive confinement that would have lead to death for all prisoners. The release of animals from fur farms is nothing new. In the former Soviet Union, Iceland, mainland Scandinavia, Western Europe, Britain and Newfoundland, Animal Liberation raids as well as accidental and intentional escapes from fur farms have resulted in mink and some fox being introduced successfully into the natural environment. In Britain, the ecological impact of these releases has been measured, and as liberated mink conveniently fill the ecological niche left by Britain's now extinct otter population, the negative impact has been minimal. In Iceland's island ecosystem, and in parts of Scandinavia, mink has been slightly more destructive to the ecological balance. Never has the question of formerly captive minks survivability been questioned by those in the know, only the level of impact these beautiful fierce predators have as they successfully readapt to a wild life.

**NORTH AMERICAN MINK.**

In North America, its a whole different story. Although there is a Eurasian species, mink are believed to be native to North America with the theory that the Eurasian species originated from North American ancestors who crossed the ice bridge between this continent and Asia. Previous to the "discovery" of the

"New World", mink were one of the many aquatic animals that flourished in virtually every lake and waterway in North America except the desert regions. The war against the mink nation that continues today, began when the first Europeans invaded their homeland. When the Mayflower first rounded Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 1620, already Jamestown, Virginia was the hub of an extensive fur trade. A price list from 1621 records mink among other animals fetching up to ten shillings apiece on the market to which modern day fur farmers can claim as their bloody lineage. The fur trade can also accept responsibility for causing the extinction of the native minks salt water cousin, the sea-mink. Nearly twice the size of their freshwater relations, and recorded as inhabiting the whole North-eastern North American Seaboard, and all that remains of this being are two skins and a pile of bones. That and of course the memory of one furrier who before the American Revolution recalls the pelt of the sea-mink selling for five guineas. And so it is, by the end of the 19th century, fresh-water mink were severely depleted from their former range in all of North America by a fur industry thirsty for the blood of this continents fur animals.

**BEGINNINGS OF MINK CAPTIVITY.**

Unlike their European and Scandinavian counterparts, mink farmers in the United States and Canada began the attempted domestication and economic exploitation of mink often from live captured wild mink populations. In the 1920's this new element to the fur trade began. In 1925 Kent Vernon's family in Northern Utah (now president of the Utah fur-breeders Co-Op) live-trapped chicken-killing mink from the wild and began breeding them in captivity. In 1927 the U.S. Government opened its Experimental Furbearer Research Station in Corvallis, Oregon (shutdown by an A.L.F. raid in 1991) and began experimentation in different techniques to breed wild mink in captivity. With overexploited mink populations unable to satisfy the demands of an increasing demand for fur, trappers across North America began to captive-raise wild mink, and in the 1930's discovered fur mutations that altered the minks fur colour. Now just 70 short years later, mink farmers are still battling the still dominant wild DNA of captive mink that causes these normally free-roaming solitary animals to contract diseases from close confinement, self-mutilate and even cannibalize their own kind. All for the price of a fur coat.

**MINK INDUSTRY RESEARCH.**

Beginning in 1990, I researched mink farms by visiting over 25 in Oregon, Washington, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and Michigan. What began as a quest to document conditions and killing techniques on fur farms quickly turned into the study of the first ever attempted domestication of a North American predator. What I learned both by my research and by the rescue rehabilitation, and release of sixty mink from a Montana farm leads me to conclude that all captive mink should be released, in one way or another, from their prisons we call fur farms. Highly intelligent, fierce and very adaptive, mink are anything but successfully domesticated. Arguments by the fur industry that mink are domesticated are ludicrous. Like all wild animals held in captivity, some mink when released from their cages will fare better than others. Many factors will contribute to successful mink reintroduction as does the impact they will have on their surrounding eco-system. These are issues that I will address in this article.

**INFILTRATION.**

In 1990-91, I spoke with many mink farmers and researchers who, believing I was a mink farmer, instructed me in ways to avoid my mink from losing their recessive genetic structures that gave them the fur quality and colour variation that separated them from their wild relations. Captive mink are genetically 95% similar to their wild counterparts. The only difference besides behaviour being fur colour and quality which is solely maintained by a scientifically controlled diet, which is key to maintaining their genetic differences from wild mink. Black and dark mink being the closest genetically to wild mink. Jim Leischow, a second generation mink farmer from Kenosha, Wisconsin described to me in a discussion at the 1991 Seattle Fur Exchange auctions how without a scientifically controlled diet, mink on any fur farm would lose their recessive genes, and over-powered by their dominant wild genetic structure, return to

their wild roots in just a few generations. Leischow also detailed how a mink escapee that breeds with a wild mink would produce offspring that in one more generation would have lost all traces of any altered genetic structure.

**IMPRISONED MINK STILL WILD.**

The difference between mink and other animals raised in intensive confinement is totally incomparable. Not only are all other domesticated livestock ungulated and herbivorous but they have also been domesticated for well over a thousand years. The closest comparison, which is hardly applicable, but for the sake of argument will be used, is the domestication of the common house cat. Originating in ancient Egypt, the cat has had over two thousand years of domestication, yet still this feline predator is proven capable of surviving in the wild as feral populations in the U.S. and Britain will attest to. Once again, survivability is not the issue but impact on their native species. Captive mink are so far away from successful domestication that they are rarely caged together unless with their own off-spring, and then only until they reach sexual maturity. Self-mutilation and cannibalism, which is not uncommon on mink farms, is yet further proof of a wild animals' behaviour as it attempts to deal with the neurosis caused by intensive confinement. Anyone who has ever been on a mink farm has heard the incessant scratching mink will make as they attempt to escape or attack their captive neighbours, separated only by a plastic or metal divider. This also is common behaviour of a wild predator unfamiliar with close proximity to others of its own species. The psychological as well as physical torture associated with the confinement of mink naturally accustomed to solitary wandering is beyond our comprehension. Genetically speaking mink are predominately still wild. Separated from their wild ancestors only by a controlled diet. Physiologically they are identical. What remains as the greatest division between wild and captive mink is predatory instincts and natural behaviour which dictates how they hunt, find shelter, build nests and forage. Fear of other animals is minimal as mink are renowned for their fearlessness.

**MINK REHABILITATION PROJECT.**

These separations were the basis of personal research into the potential for rehabilitation and release of the 60 mink I had purchased in Montana in 1990. The Coalition Against Fur Farms (CAFF) began as a rehabilitation project, the objective being to determine the feasibility to reintroduce native mink from fur farms back into their natural habitat. In January of 1991 the trials began as CAFF volunteers placed mink in cages four times as large as their previous enclosures and introduced natural objects such as logs, rocks, plants, and gallon baths. Fur farmers had assured me that escaped captive mink had at least a 50% chance of survival, and CAFF hoped to increase that figure as much as possible. The introduction of a 12"x6" bathtubs allowed the mink their first opportunity to acquaint themselves with water besides that which came from a small water nozzle or dish. Their response was to fully submerge themselves and spin in a cycle that quickly splashed all water out of their baths. This would be followed by grooming sessions in which the mink dried themselves and maintained utmost cleanliness, yet another sign of a healthy wild animal. Once the mink had built up muscular strength after their time in a fur farms cramped conditions, we began to nurture hunting instincts. Though morally opposed to the killing of animals, CAFF felt that the survival of our captive mink could not be guaranteed without a minimal amount of live-animal feeding. We knew that our project would later be used by others to determine the potential for successful reintroduction of fur farm prisoners, and so chose to do everything possible to ensure not only their survival but also their survival without human dependency. This also meant live-feeding which would teach them how to hunt rather than scrounge near or where humans were. This would ensure greater independence and less likelihood of human/mink interactions. The mink in our project dug into their instinctual memory to remind themselves how to first seize the prey with one bite, then without releasing it, crush down until the skull or neck was broken. Then the mink would scour the logs and rocks for others that may have gone unnoticed. Once assured of no other present prey, the mink would return to the kill and eat everything or place the remainder in its nest just like wild mink. Once the mink had learned to

kill and had tasted live food, they refused to eat the scientific diet we had been supplied by National Fur Feeds.

**THE RELEASE.**

Finally, we released the mink to natural waterways across the Northwest's many forest lands. Always far from human habitations. And never within a 5-mile radius of another captive released mink of the opposite sex. We wanted to ensure the breeding only with wild mink. We also waited until the natural breeding season had passed so as not to burden the mink with the upbringing of offspring in their first season of freedom. Our mink releases were filled with encouraging signs that the mink would survive. On one release a mink quickly found an abandoned animal burrow, and as we left we could see its head peeking out watching our departure. Another release had a young female mink burrowing under a log, gathering twigs and grass building a nest. Still another mink found a mouse hole, and burying its nose in it began to dig frantically. On many releases near streams the mink were quick to explore the shore of the water, eventually plunging in and swimming completely submerged playing with pebbles and rocks with their forepaws. Returning to one release site weeks later I quickly found mink droppings and tracks near the creek and the dropping contained hair from a preyed upon animal. Most of the behaviour exhibited by our mink was not learned, but simply returned to them as they found themselves in their natural element.

**THOUGHTS ON LIBERATIONS.**

It is my belief that the liberator becomes responsible for the lives of the liberated when she/he endeavours to free them. Ideally, the liberated will become truly independent of human needs and achieve complete liberation. But until then, there are a number of factors that liberators can influence to increase the possibilities of a liberated mink's survival. The time of year the liberations take place is the highest priority. The best time being May and January, the worst being during the breeding and kit-bearing season. Releasing an impregnated mink increases the needs of the liberated mink for food and shelter, female mink naturally raise their kits alone. Releasing mink once they have given birth to a litter will also mean abandonment of kits, although some might be foster-raised by another mink mother. Of course, it cannot be over-looked that all captive minks are destined for death, and there is room for debate as to which kind of death is more desirable, a mink being the only one to surely know. Still I have hesitated to release mink from fur farms near heavily travelled roads knowing a large number would become road kills. This is yet another moral dilemma the liberator must face when they decide to open the cages. Personally, I have seen mink watching as the gas-chambers are wheeled down the rows of cage, and seen them screech frantically and attempt all manner of last minute escape as it becomes painfully evident that they will die. There is also the very compelling argument for liberation that even with the recapture of 100% of all released mink from a targeted farm, that the breeding has still been completely disrupted as farmers have no way of separately identifying their breeder mink from their pelter mink. A mink raised to be pelted will often be in a much smaller cage than a breeder mink. For this reason, liberators would do best by releasing mink from both large and small mink cages so as to confuse the two. As of yet mink farmers have not devised methods of tagging, branding or tattooing individual animals except for labelling on the cage. For this reason it is always advantageous to remove all record-keeping cards from cages when releasing mink. Transportation of mink either a short distance from cage to guard fence or a larger distance is best achieved by securing the mink individually in its nest-box. A small flat piece of sheet metal is often used to divide and block the hole leading from the nest-box to cage at which point the nest-box can then be removed and the hold blocked with a gloved hand or more permanent means for long transportation. Despite the average liberators aversion to leather, nothing protects human skin better than a thick pair of leather welding gloves which usually can be found lying around a mink farm. With criminal DNA testing liberators should take every precaution not to leave a blood trail of their own. Remember, you are dealing with a wild predator unfamiliar to kind human hands. Often given the choice, a mink will leave the immediate area once outside of the guard fence, which usually is a 5-6 foot fence lined with sheet metal to prevent escape should mink get out of their cage. If left inside the guard fence

often a mink will linger simply because of the smell of food or other mink cages, and also because of the familiarity of its own nest-box which is all it has ever known. Once a large number of mink have left the guard fence area the quickest method of natural distribution is waterways. Without interference from the irate mink farmers attempting to recapture his furry investments, mink will not overcrowd themselves in the wild. It is not uncommon for a mink to travel 5 miles in one night (they are mostly nocturnal) and a large number of mink released in one area will not stay concentrated but will travel until they establish a territory all their own, searching out other mink only to breed.

**ECOLOGICAL IMPACT.**

This leads us to the issue of ecological impact caused by mass mink liberations on their new environment. There will be noticeable impact on local prey populations, and for this reason, liberators should research target areas to guarantee that the sensitive habitat of a vulnerable endangered species is not nearby. Mink will attack almost anything, I've seen mink chasing large dogs and heard a story of one seen flying through the air attached to the leg of a large heron, the mink unwilling to release its targeted prey. Mink will kill beyond their need, and for this reason caution should be taken when releasing mink near large concentrations of small animals. Mink are ferocious. Long persecuted at the hands of man, native predators are continually routinely killed by ranchers and other gun-toting humans. Much like the coyote has filled the ecological niche the wolf has left behind and by doing so extended its own historical range, so also do mink have the potential to fit nicely into the niche otters and other predators have left as their numbers are continually reduced by humans. Native mink populations are still drastically reduced, and given large-scale mink liberations, individual mink are sure to redistribute themselves to their former habitat with a little help from their two-legged friends. There should not be hesitation to re-introduce captive mink into their native habitat. The ideal environment being underdeveloped areas with a nearby water source and infrequently used roads. As A.L.F. liberators open the cages, they not only liberate an individual animal but the whole species. Mink, fox, bobcat, and lynx farm liberations are not only a blow to a fur farmers' profits, but also a boost to North America's ravaged environment. With an absence of natural predators, prey populations often explode causing undue harm to their environment. By releasing fur farm prisoners, liberators are guardians of healthy eco-systems. Before one single animal abuser can argue the merits of a captive fur animal's impact on the natural environment, they must first address the overall impact the whole domestic livestock industry has had on the earth. It is no coincidence that the number one reason behind predator eradication is the protection of politically powerful livestock interests. Still it remains that for the mink nations of North America the shortest path on the road to animal liberation lies from the opened cage to the outlying guard fence. Now it is time for liberators across the continent to follow the lead of the A.L.F. in British Columbia, Washington, Utah, Wisconsin, Tennessee, New York, and Minnesota and take action to liberate the four-legged prisoners from the war on nature. Until all fur farm prisoners are free... Open the Cages!!! *This article originally was published in the animal liberation magazine No Compromise #4 under the title Open the Cages!!

*Rod Coronado has served a 57 month prison sentence for his involvement in destroying mink research facilities. He is a free man now!!!

## Finding a partner (or two).

It is really very difficult to explain to someone how they can find close, trust-worthy partners who are willing to take the same risks and are knowledgeable and strong enough to withstand heavy hours of police interrogation, intimidation, and harassment. Though you never plan to be faced with this situation, it is a realistic risk and you and anyone you work with should understand with a firm knowledge that if this situation arises, you and anyone you work with will not cooperate at all with any law enforcement agencies! There is no cut and dry pattern or formula for choosing or finding partners. THIS IS GOOD. If there was a pattern or formula, it would open the door for infiltration of law enforcement and corporate

agents. However, by executing the fast food action by myself, it lead me to a second person whom I later hooked up with.

**FRIENDS AND COMRADES.**

Another member of our current cell really was not "chosen." We had merely known and trusted each other since high school when we used to forge passes out of study hall so we could skip school and go swimming in the river. We had both been vegetarians (and outcasts) in high school and I taught him about animal rights as he shared with me his views of deep ecology. It wasn't long before we started working together. My point here is that there was no formula with which to evaluate my friend. Merely, I had spent years with him as a best friend and we pretty much knew each other inside and out. These are the best kind of partners to have since you already have an established relationship and friendship that no law enforcement agent would be able to make up. So I'd like to emphasize that this is the best way of "finding" a partner: working with someone you have a history with. And, always trust your intuition. If some-one doesn't feel right or you get "weird vibes" from him or her, DON'T work with that person! The opposite is true here also, but I don't need to explain that since, when you find that true connection, the feeling is pretty much unmistakable. The other partner I connected with after the fast food restaurant action had a long history in the environmental movement. I only shared my interest in illegal direct action with her after she had complained to me consistently about a billboard advertising animal products and how someone should correct the billboard so consumers would know exactly what suffering that product really hid. After hearing repeated complaints from my friend (was she checking me out, too?), we went for a walk. Here I told her that the billboard she hated so much appeared to be easily accessible (I had already re-conned it) and that if she wanted to help redecorate it, that would be jolly. Needless to say, she thought this was a grand idea and, within a matter of days, the billboard had been corrected. Red paint bombs made from Christmas ornaments also gave the appearance of blood running down the advertisement.

**CRITIQUING THE ACTION.**

The day after the billboard action, my friend and I went on another walk (we NEVER talked in a house or car!) to discuss and critique our action. This may seem silly to some, but it is the best way to learn from your mistakes and make improvements for further actions. Meetings like this--restricted to only those involved with the action--are great to learn from. Other than that they should never be discussed again. In this case, we realized that the warning system we had set up to warn of cops (a loud whistle) didn't work. I had been warned twice of police in the area by her whistle, but I was never sure when to resume work on the billboard. Also, the whistling merely attracted attention to my partner rather than to me. Because of this, we ended up putting together our savings and buying a police scanner, frequency book, and a cheap pair of two-way radio headsets. Because of the headset's low price ($49.95 for the pair), I knew they would not be reliable for an action where the lookout is a long distance away. Nevertheless, they would suit our needs for more billboard, fast food restaurant, and fur shop actions.

**BUILDING TRUST AND SOLIDARITY.**

These are the actions that should be done most often to build up confidence, unity, and comradeship. The more of these types of actions done, the more competent, confident, and experienced you and your cell will become, and you can soon "move up" to bigger and better actions. (Bigger and better being defined here as larger actions with more severe amounts of damage being done to the target. This, of course, includes arson attacks.) These actions will come in time if you and your partners stay active and build up a unity and confidence that becomes almost intuitive. Myself and the two individuals I currently work with have almost a psychic connection in which we usually always know what the other two people are thinking. This will not happen overnight and, if you expect it to, you will be let down. That is why I must emphasize motivation and persistence. It took me about two years of actions like this and now I currently work regularly with two separate cells and a handful of other people who occasionally seek my

assistance. Through persistence and perseverance you will build up a network of resources including tools, money, people, and experience. If you tell yourself that there are no suitable targets to strike, you should stop and ask yourself if this is what you really want to be doing. If it is, just go to the nearest phone book and let your fingers do the walking. The yellow pages will give you the names, phone numbers, and addresses (and a map of the local area) of countless animal exploiters. This is an invaluable and easily accessible resource, available 24-hours a day in any city or town you may find yourself in. In one instance, our cell drove two states away to "remodel" an establishment profiting off of animals' deaths. Once there however, we realized this would not be possible. Instead of going home disappointed, we simply went to the nearest pay phone and let our fingers do the walking. Before we left that state, one animal abuse establishment had been completely destroyed! *article first published in No Compromise #8 under the title 'letters from the underground, finding a partner(or two). *This article is one person's story of her involvement with the A.L.F. This is the second letter in a three part series. In part one, she explained how she overcame her fear and excuses and started conducting solo A.L.F. actions. In part II, she tells us of how she found partners to help her with her actions and how they worked together as a team. *No Compromise anonymously received these letters and we re-print them here to, once again, reveal the truth about the character, dedication and resourcefulness of the A.L.F.

## Interview with Swedish activists who served four months for liberating mink.

*Kristofer Aberg, 18, and Henrik Seger, 16, are 2 of 3 Swedish activists who were arrested for and have confessed to raiding 2 mink farms on the same night. The 3 men had their trial on May 29 and were sentenced on June 5. Kristofer and David Zachridsson were given 4 months in jail and Henrik, because of his especially young age, was turned over to the social authorities for "treatment. Here is our exclusive interview with these courageous and inspirational young warriors.*

**NC: Tell us about the night you were arrested.**

Kristofer: I guess one could say that the night started with us going by car from Karlstad. Before leaving Karlstad, we had discussed which fur farms to attack, we had gotten all maps, tools, clothes, etc. that we needed and we left the apartment at around 10 pm. In our rented car, we headed towards a mink farm in Ardala. After parking our car we went by foot to the farm and there we used our bolt cutters to get access to this huge farm. Later we found out that this farm is responsible for the death of 70,000 mink a year. We cut about four holes in the surrounding fence and then we started to open the cages in four or five sheds. Altogether I think it was around 600-700 cages that were opened. We then ran back to our car and decided to go to another farm, located in Skyberga, around 100 miles from the first farm. The procedure was about the same at this farm. We parked our car and went by foot to the farm where we opened the main gate and cut a hole in the surrounding fence. Then we opened about 250 cages but then we had to turn around and run because we saw someone standing at the end of the shed. Later we found out that this was the farmer (who had checked on his farm at least twice a night since he was attacked in early 1997) and now we went for a three-hour-escape. Since we saw that our car was being supervised, we had to go by foot. We ran about five miles, trying to get to the nearest city but, unfortunately, we were caught by two cops with dogs and we were taken to the police station.

**NC: What inspired you to go out and risk your own freedom to let mink out of their cages?**

Henrik: I started to work for animal rights in a "normal" way, but then I realized that we must take action, "direct action" to give them freedom. I was so sad to see those animals, placed in small cages and all I had to do to give them freedom and a normal life in nature was to "open the cages"! Then I began to go out to fur farms and take a look at them, just to see with my own eyes. After I had been on some fur farms, I decided to take action against this industry and rescue those animals. So I began to liberate them and letting them out of their prison by opening the cages...

Kristofer: Being aware of what is going on the mink farms, I can't understand how anyone can stay passive and let it continue, so I just did what my instincts told me to do - to give the mink what they've been waiting for their whole life - their freedom.

**NC: How did it feel to see hundreds of mink running free for the first time?**

Henrik: After liberating about 1000 mink you just want to get out of there! When the mink get out of the cage, they begin to make noise, like screaming! The noise is very disturbing and you will feel a bit nervous. When you then run away from the farm and take a look around you, you will see mink all around your feet. When releasing mink, I concentrate on opening as many cages as possible, because if I take a break and look at the mink, I will lose time and some mink will lose their freedom! When we liberate mink from fur farms, we "always" release as many as possible!

Kristofer: The sight that all three of us saw when we ran from the first farm was incredible. When we left the first farm by jumping over the fence, we saw that many of the mink we had released already were enjoying freedom and I have never felt such a feeling before. No matter how many articles, etc. that you read about liberations, they can't even be compared to what it feels like to see those mink facing freedom for the first time in their lives.

**NC: What did you do to pass the time in jail?**

Kristofer: We spent the first four days after our arrest in the police station, and the time here was very boring and lonely, and the environment wasn't very stimulating either. I spent a lot of time sleeping, sometimes I did some exercise, and I also read some health magazines, which were the only thing that we were allowed to read. The three of us sat in the same corridor - David in cell 1, I in cell 3 and Henrik in cell 5 - so sometimes I could catch a glimpse of either Henrik or David when they visited the toilet. One thing that I remember especially is on the second day. Now I didn't feel very well, but then I sat on my bed and I saw when Henrik passed my cell. The thing was that he held his fist clenched and that made me feel a lot better for some days. After this we also held the spirit up by knocking the melody "Fur is torture, fur is dead - free the animals ALF" on our beds and sometimes we even started to sing.

**NC: Is there anything you would have done differently to prevent getting caught?**

Kristofer: The main reason why we were caught on the farm in Skyberga, was because the farmer there had checked on his farm twice a night for almost a year, so I don't think we could have done anything about that. Although we made some mistakes and of course I want to share what one could learn from them: - Always use socks over your shoes. Later we found out that my footprints couldn't be found on any of the farms, but both Henrik's and David's were found on the two farms.

If you use socks over your shoes, always take them off before getting into the car again. Farmers sometimes spread lime on the farm to prevent sickness among the mink and this lime can get on your socks, clothes, etc. and get analyzed by the police experts. There may not be much to do about the clothes, but if you don't remove the socks, the lime can get stuck on the car carpet and then it can get analyzed by the police.

Always bring sandpaper to use on all tools after using them or when you are in your car/in safety etc. This way the police won't be able to match them to the cuts made in the fence.

Always park the car at least two miles from where the farm is. In this way you will still have a chance to get to the car if you are interrupted by the farmer, etc.

If you have maps in the car, always destroy them before leaving the car.

**NC: What kind of support did you get in jail?**

Henrik: people from all over Sweden came and had demonstrations outside the court and police station. I also got letters from Sweden, Finland, England and USA! Thank you...After the time in prison, I understand how important it is to support the brave men and women who are willing to risk their freedom for the animals, who have ended up in prison...

Kristofer: I can definitely say that the letters were what kept me alive in there. I also realized that the support for all prisoners is very important, so therefore I decided to start writing letters myself.

**NC: You just had your trial - what happened?**

Henrik: I came to the courthouse an hour before the trial began. The whole street was crowded with police cars, police dogs, police officers and a helicopter. People from Sweden, Finland and England were on the scene and demonstrated against the trial and the fur industry. One of the Englishmen said, "Why all these police...it's not an I.R.A. activist who is going on trial." When the trial began, the judge said "No propaganda; you are here because of the crime you committed, not to explain why you did it!" Kristofer: The two farmers were also present, and they talked about how much money our actions had cost them and we also had a debate about the mink's capacity to survive in the wild. During the day we also did some interviews with media and they were pretty good.

**NC: Will the sentence deter you from further activism?**

Kristofer: I can say like this - that before I got caught, I always said that I supported all ALF actions, but that I wouldn't do them myself; and now, after I was arrested, I say exactly the same thing...

Henrik: No, absolutely NOT! The fight for animal liberation will continue! I will not compromise in the name of the animals. I will continue to speak for them and act for them. The war against the fur industry will continue until EVERY cage is empty...

**NC: The anti-fur movement has been pretty strong in Sweden - would you say your arrest has helped to build the momentum?**

Henrik: Yes I think so, when we where arrested people got upset, but they began to work harder for us and the animals. When people heard about this, they felt they must do something about this! After my arrest, there have been 2 fur farm raids in Sweden! One in the north and one in the south!

Kristofer: Yes, I think so. The issue has attracted attention, and since we have everything to win in a debate, the result is that we get more strength to our movement. I can give you an example from my hometown Boras; in the largest newspaper called Boras Tidning, there have been two big debates about animal rights and they have both been after ALF actions. The first one was after three meat trucks was burned down in April 1997, and the other one was after a fur farm raid in October last year. Those debates would never had come up if it wasn't for these actions.

**NC: Have mink raids been a successful weapon against the fur trade in Sweden and why?**

Henrik: Yes they have! The fur industry in Sweden gasps for air! All fur is exported to Asia, Denmark and China. The fur-industry has NO support in Sweden, the only way to make them stop "here" is through "direct action" and protests. The only way to make them stop is to hurt them in the pocket, so they lose money! Some fur farms have been closed down by attacks from anti-fur groups like "The Wild Minks" and the "ALF."

Kristofer: Yes, they have been very successful. Of course I don't see anything wrong with spreading information outside fur shops, etc., but since more than 90% of the furs that come from Swedish fur farms go for export, we must also attack this part of the industry. On some occasions there have been raids where every single animal on the farm has been liberated, and it's pretty obvious that if there aren't any animals left on the farm, the farmer can't go on with his/her work. The amount of fur farms in Sweden has decreased remarkably in the last years, and I think that if the raids continue as they have done, they will be the end for the Swedish fur industry.

**NC: What do you say to those who oppose mink raids?**

Kristofer: These people obviously haven't studied what consequences the raids have and therefore, I would either tell them about it myself, or I would tell them to study it, and I have also written an article about it. The biggest problem that these people make is that they never ask themselves what the alternative would be. If you do like them and remain passive, then 100% of the imprisoned mink (and other animals) will die - but now at least some of them will have the chance to live a life in freedom. It's proven that liberated mink can survive in the wild here in Sweden and we also have more than one million mink that live free, and all of these are descended from the farms. Some people also oppose mink raids because they say that the mink cause "ecological imbalance" but, although there have been investigations, there has never been any proof of this so, of course, it's a lie that the farmers say to make us look bad. So at the end of it, I only see fur farm raids as a good thing and I hope they will continue.

Henrik: If we let the mink stay at the farm, they all will die. The only way to give them freedom is to liberate them. Don't listen to the myths the fur-industry tells you!

**NC: Finally, whatever verdict/sentence you get, will it have been worth it for you?**

Kristofer: I would never have been out there in the first place if I wasn't aware of what could happen to me, so I know that I will keep fighting till the fur industry is dead and all animals are free.

Henrik: Not for me, but for the mink and fox who are living on the fur farms. If we don't do anything, they will die. Their lives are in our hands. The only way to give them freedom and a natural life is to release them to the wild. The fur industry gasps for air and we will do everything we can to finish them off. The fight will continue until the last cage is empty...Open the cages!!

*article originally published in No Compromise #9, under the title Interview with confessed mink liberators. *All three people are now free again!!

## All the things you should know about liberating animals out of laboratories.

### WHY DO LABORATORY RAIDS?

Laboratory liberations are essential in the war against vivisection. Education and economic sabotage save animals' lives in the long run, but liberating animals from laboratories or other places of abuse is the only way to save animals' lives now. Laboratory liberations are among the most complex and risky actions an activist may undertake. For these reasons, planning and preparation are the most important steps in this type of action.

### HOW DO YOU SELECT A TARGET?

There are a number of different criteria that a cell may use in selecting one target over another for a liberation or other action. The type of experiments going on, known security weaknesses, or homes arranged for a certain type of animal are all criteria that may influence an activist's decision. Because local law enforcement will always look into the local activist networks first when investigating a liberation it is a good idea to pick labs that are not in the same area where you live (especially if you're known in the community as an animal rights activist), or even in the same state or province.

### HOW DO YOU FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF EXPERIMENTS ( AND ON WHAT ANIMALS) ARE GOING ON INSIDE THE LAB?

Research avenues are going to be different depending on what type of institution you are targeting. Some general rules for information searches do apply, though you will have to do some of your own research that is specific to your area and target. Vivisectors themselves publish amazing amounts of information. Some places that you might go to find some of their information include: university libraries, published research sources such as scientific and medical journals, the world wide web, medical school catalogues, CRISP abstracts, annual reports, USDA inspection reports, Medline, APHIS databases, ICAR databases and media reports. Another avenue for finding out information on government institutions, including universities, is through Freedom of Information requests. Legislation on the right to access information varies from state to state and province to province so you will have to find out what information you have the "right" to in your area. An important note: if you are going to use this information to plan a liberation, do not place the request in your own name or to your own address. Records of information requests are kept, and could be used to trace you to the action. Also be advised that F.O.I.A. requests can take several months to be processed. A couple of good online resources for learning more about vivisection are: IDA's INVESTIGATING ANIMAL RESEARCH - A brief guide API's Useful Tools for Investigating Animal Experimentation.

## WHAT KIND OF PREPARATION (RECONNAISSANCE) DO YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE THE ACTION?

Because laboratory liberations are high-risk actions, the more preparation, the better. After selecting your target, you must become as familiar with it as possible. Watch your target for many nights and days over a long period of time so that you can get a good idea of security on site: patrols and police response, staff and student activity, shift changes, other activity in the area, surrounding neighbours, and other factors. Keeping extensive written information of all of the above will help in the planning of the action. It is preferable to have maps of the entire area, including road, topographical and aerial if possible. Maps can be obtained in university and city libraries. In addition, blueprints of the targeted building can sometimes be obtained in city or university libraries. Over the period that you do reconnaissance on the site, you should also draw your own maps including any features that you think are significant to your action including escape routes. When drawing up a detailed action plan, leave nothing to chance. Figure out every step in the action and be certain that everyone in the cell is familiar and comfortable with the plan beforehand. At least once before the action, your cell should go through a dry run that approximates the conditions you will face as closely as possible. This means that you should try to do the "rehearsal" on the same day of the week, at the same time that your action is planned for. This may include going right into the lab to copy documents, check types and number of animals, and to look for other features that may help or hinder the liberation. Obviously, you should always have a contingency plan in place in case something goes wrong. It should be clear to everyone what the plan of action will be should you come into contact with security officers, police, students or staff on the scene. Know which way you will escape, if you will act as a group or alone, and where you will meet afterwards.

## HOW DO YOU GET INTO A LAB?

Obviously, there are many ways to enter a building, and which method you choose will depend upon the security of the building that you have targeted. Forcing doors, cutting through doors, picking and drilling locks, forcing or breaking windows, and accessing ventilation systems are all means by which you may enter the building. Roofs, and interior or exterior walls may also be cut or drilled through for entry. What arrangements need to be made for the care of animals following the raid (short term and long term - vet care, safehouses, homes, and transportation)? The most important part of a liberation is finding loving homes for the animals. Aside from the actual entry group, another set of people may be required for this task. NEVER liberate an animal that you have not found a good home for. Liberated animals should be placed in homes of people not associated with your group, and possibly not even associated with the movement at all. Once animals are taken, police will be looking for them, so they have to be placed somewhere police will not look, preferably well away from the area where the laboratory is located. After being liberated, an animal should be completely checked over by a trusted veterinarian or other experienced animal caregiver. Special homes may be needed for some animals considering you may be liberating animals not normally kept as pets, or with special conditions inflicted upon them by the abusers. The majority of large lab animals are tattooed, may have implants, have organs or other body parts removed, or may be very ill and/or contagious. As was said, liberations are often highly complex, requiring a number of people and a huge amount of planning. You will need people responsible for finding homes for animals, researching and planning the raid, lookouts, breaking in, carriers - people to get the animals out, and drivers, as well as someone to coordinate the whole thing.

## HOW CAN ONE ENSURE THEY DO MAXIMUM DAMAGE WHEN DESTROYING EQUIPMENT?

Maximum damage to equipment and laboratory facilities can be done by a variety of means including use of paint, brute force, acid, water and/or fire. Your choice of method will depend on the facility itself, how much noise you will be able to make without being heard, whether there are animals being left behind, whether other humans in the building could be put at risk, and your own judgment of the situation. Slogans may be spray painted on walls and other surfaces. Buckets of paint can be emptied anywhere

inside the lab. Brute force may include damage done using just the physical body as well as tools such as bolt cutters, hammers, crowbars, drills and other implements of destruction. Not all equipment is of high value - in order to choose your targets for maximum financial loss, familiarize yourself with equipment costs through vivisection industry magazines like Lab Animal and laboratory supply company catalogues. Lots of easy damage can be done using water and water sources in the building. Running water while stopping up sinks, toilets and other drainage areas is a quick way to do extensive water damage to a building. In larger buildings, it is best to do this on the top floor so that damage is done to all floors below. A lot of financial damage can be done quickly to equipment and paper files with the use of strong acid. Any strength of sulphuric acid will work (battery acid is weak sulphuric acid), muriatic acid will also work in a pinch. Fire can also be an effective tool in destroying facilities. Your choice to use this tactic will depend on many things including the presence of animal and human life in the building, adjoining facilities that may be put at risk, environmental danger due to fire, and the comfort level of all cell members in setting the fire.

**WHAT KIND OF SECURITY MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN WITH REGARDS TO SLOGANS AND VIDEO, ETC.?**

Obviously, you don't want to "personalize" your action by leaving behind clues that could help investigators. When planning what to wear to an action, make sure that your clothes can be disposed of (including your shoes), and that hair and hands are covered throughout the action. You do not want to leave fingerprints or DNA in the form of hair strands or other organic matter at the scene of the liberation. When painting slogans, make sure that they are done in straight, block letters and that paint purchases cannot be traced back to you. Make sure that as much of your body as possible is covered, especially the face and hand area in case of video surveillance. Wear a balaclava and gloves and make sure that all distinguishing marks such as tattoos are not exposed in any way. Be aware that video footage may reveal height, weight, sex and body shape. *article taken from No Compromise #15

## ALF activist Joseph talks about his participation in the UC Harbor laboratory raid.

Inspired by the recent surge in ALF raids, especially those against laboratories, I have decided to share my own experiences. I feel that my fellow brothers and sisters now leading the fight against vivisection and exploitation of all beings should know what the struggle was like in the early eighties. When I was doing what was most important in my life, my close inner circle and the FBI knew me as Joseph. We were the West Coast cell of the ALF. We pulled off some of the most precise, well-thought-out, and expertly executed raids known to the animal rights movement in this country. Our first raid (the largest on the US West Coast at the time) was at UC Harbour Medical in Torrance, California. On Christmas, 1983 we liberated 12 medium-large dogs, even though the facility had their own police department about 300 feet away from the where the animals were kept. But after several weeks of surveillance, we knew their schedule better than they did. In 1983, the animal rights community did not have the ALF support base or militant minded faction that exists today. When I made the decision that I would break into the UC medical centre and rescue the animals inside, recruiting other activists willing to cross the line proved a difficult task. No one had ever even heard of this timely and effective method of directly saving animals' lives. We had no selection process to put out feelers for willing activists or carefully gauge the opinions of others concerning direct action and the ALF. No one had opinions on the ALF because no one knew what it was. I asked a few friends for a favour and we carried out the first raid by a west coast ALF cell. It was a huge risk, but maybe the best decision I ever made. What grew from those tentative beginnings evolved into what was arguably the most effective ALF cell in this country to date. I had been in many labs before the one at UC Harbour Medical, but our first illegal forced entry felt very eerie. When we entered this particular vivarium and began carrying most of the dogs out they were so quiet. All I could hear was my heart beating and the pattering of my comrades' feet. The dogs knew why we were there.

There is no question in my mind. We had specially constructed cages in two vans for the long haul to make it as comfortable as possible for them. While driving, one young fella chewed his way out of the cage through the makeshift wall to sit up front on my lap. To be in the front was not enough; he sat on my lap and would not move. And they say animals can't think or feel. People who say this are the ones who can't think or feel. So for seven hours, we drove - my partner, my new loyal and appreciative friend and myself. He lived to be 19 1/2 years old and was still going strong until the very end. Times like that made it all worth while. While security may have been less sophisticated back then, it was still very strong. Our skills evolved, and we later employed a variety of techniques to get in and get the animals out. It is my belief that almost any facility could be raided and every animal liberated with enough careful planning and expertise. This theory has been proven by the latest handful of lab raids. Avoid sloppiness in surveillance, planning and executing a raid. It's important that good dedicated activists don't go to jail. You are of more help to the animals out here. It is equally important that activists not be too paranoid or over-zealous in their security precautions - this can impede the progress of an action, and far too often stand in the way of a raid being carried out at all. Being security conscious and getting the job done are both equally important. Some factors to consider when planning a successful liberation include media and public opinion. It is vital to get maximum media coverage. Only very few types of ALF actions can be carried out without regard for public opinion. The Animal Liberation Front operates outside the law and strikes without public permission, but it is nonetheless vital to win the favour of public opinion when possible. This will give the vivisectors millions of opponents, not just a handful of angry activists. One of the best ways is to film and document the conditions in the lab before the raid to send this video to the media immediately after completion. It is also vital to video and document the raid itself so this can be released a few days later to the media for more coverage. Keep the action in the public eye for as long as possible. Once an action is big news, anything that you can give the public and news media will be picked up and broadcast to millions. Ride the wave. Seize and release documents and video to the media detailing the specifics of lab experiments, animals used, feeding and veterinary logs, anything that will shine a negative light on the researchers and their animal experiments. Even the most seemingly insignificant documents and bits of information can reveal the cruelty of the vivisectors. Remember, don't take for granted that everyone knows the horrors of animal experimentation. Most people will be shocked when they receive their first glimpse behind laboratory doors. As activists, we know the facts and are reminded every day through graphic photos on AR flyers and anti-vivisection videos. We forget that others are not so aware. What is old news to you will have a powerful impact on the public. It is also very important to make sure the video footage is well shot and well thought out. Know what you're going to film ahead of time. Showing the horrific conditions of the animals and the cruelty inflicted on them in the labs should be a top priority. I personally don't believe in random graffiti or vandalism - you should send a very clear message. A well thought out slogan on a wall makes your motivation unmistakable to the public and unalterable by the media. Just throwing books, desks and other things over may make the ALF look bad in the eyes of the public. Remember, it is the public we are trying to educate so we can ultimately outlaw these barbaric practices. In my mind we want to create an image of Robin Hood or of David and Goliath. Americans and the British can relate to this, and will root for the good guys. It is crucial to present yourselves as the good guys. So, again, know what you want the media to see and how the public will construe this information and footage. One has to look at the big picture in order to accomplish our ultimate goal: liberation for all animals. I will in further articles explain the other raids and what we went through. I am so proud of everyone who puts his or her life on the line. One last thing. If you are not ready to give up your freedom or life then maybe you should ask yourself if you are ready for the Animal Liberation Front. There is always as important work in the support groups you may want to consider because there is nothing worse than someone that rolls over and gives up his comrades to save himself. Recently I've noticed a new batch of young activists ready to go the distance. You are the best! Keep up the fight and be safe. We all need you and love you.

*article taken from No Compromise #15.

## Interview with Darren Thurston, who served 15½ months for taking part in a laboratory raid.

**NC: How did you get involved in animal rights?**

DT: I started getting involved in the hard-core/ alternative/straight-edge music scene in 1985/6 and through that got involved in animal rights/ liberation. I stopped eating meat and, shortly after, stopped eating dairy and eggs. I formed an Animal Rights group called Citizens Organized for Animal Liberation because none of the local AR groups wanted to do civil disobedience actions or even demonstrations. They would do their annual anti-fur pickets and the odd anti-rodeo and anti-circus pickets and sit on the fence the rest of the time.

**NC: What led you take a more militant approach to animal liberation and join the A.L.F.?**

DT: First off, animal rights organizing was very frustrating. I saw animals every day getting killed and tortured for human greed, vanity and food, while people wanted to write letters and talk to vivisectors about the 'problem.' Secondly, you can't join the Animal Liberation Front. It has no central command, address, or membership list. The A.L.F. is everywhere. It's composed of dedicated people who take the first step and do something, smash a window, glue a lock, spray paint a butcher shop, free some mink, burn a meat truck, liberate some animals from a laboratory. Remember, YOU ARE THE A.L.F.! and the animals need you NOW.

**NC: How did you learn to do A.L.F. actions?**

DT: I never really learned from anywhere or anyone. But I do remember an old adage that "practice makes perfect" or something along those lines. For those that would like to learn the finer details of how to do certain things, they are available in numerous booklets. [Recommended reading; An Animal Liberation-Liberation Primer 2nd edition, Interviews with A.L.F. Activists, The Power is Ours and The Final Nail.]

**NC: What security precautions did you see activists take while involved in the A.L.F.?**

DT: Physical security was a major concern of everyone as it always should be. You have to assume that every word you say over a telephone is being heard, pay telephones included. Never talk inside anyone's home or vehicle, both can and are bugged very easily. The best cover of course is to have never been involved in above-ground animal rights organizing at all. Animal Rights groups are the first place the police will start looking for suspects. Police regularly video tape demonstrations so they know who is active. More and more activists are forming small tight knit groups of close friends that they can work with. We are also seeing activists both here in North America and in England go underground so that they may continue direct action against the animal abusers and/or avoid arrest.

**NC: What was the University of Alberta doing to the animals?**

DT: I had done some research in the University library and found information about the ongoing experiments at the University of Alberta such as the testing of drugs on primates, spinal cord research on cats, smoking experiments on dogs, etc. A lot of the cats that were liberated would have ended up having their spinal cords broken and drugs tested on them.

**NC: How did you obtain that information?**

DT: A lot of it came from lab animal research journals and other University publications at the University libraries. The vivisectors love publishing papers of how they torture and mutilate animals in order to get further research grants. It doesn't take that long to figure out how to use any University's computer search functions and check out ongoing experiments and specific researchers.

**NC: What did you do to prepare for the raid?**

DT: I watched the entire facility for numerous days and nights familiarizing myself with the normal routine of the facility; the time the staff came and left work, when staff that lived on the farm/facility were at home and when they went to sleep, at what time University security did their routine checks. I also obtained both road and aerial maps of the area from local libraries. The facility was quite large - it has approx. a dozen buildings including breeding facilities for mice, cows, pigs, sheep, dogs and cats. Two caretakers (both vivisectors) lived in separate houses on the facility.

**NC: Any other planning?**
DT: I picked a night that I knew would be quiet, a new moon when there would be very little moonlight. We also made a visit to the facility the night before the raid to make sure everything was in place and to familiarize everyone of what the facility looked like and what their roles were.
**NC: What equipment was necessary to do the raid?**
DT: hmm..... Well, let's see; crowbar, large ball-peen hammer, portable electric drill, radios, radio frequency-scanners (so we could listen to both University Security and the Police), pick-up truck, cat carriers, paint, large bags. NC: How did you carry all of the equipment inside?
DT: There wasn't all that much equipment needed, a duffel bag and back-pack worked fine.
**NC: How did you handle the security systems and enter the building?**
DT: The facility had a security system including an ADT card entry system at the front door, and an intrusion alarm system - the vast majority of the facility was totally insecure though. There were numerous windows that it would have been very easy to break and enter through, including windows directly into the large cat colony cages. There were many doors that could have been opened in a variety of different ways; pushing hinge pins out, drilling large holes right through, drilling or picking locks, or forcing the locks with a crowbar. Mysteriously though, the door we went to, which opened directly into the cat kennel room, was left unlocked?!
**NC: What did you do when you entered the building?**
DT: Immediately went to work getting the cats out. The most important part of the action was getting the animals out safely. Once that was done the other tasks could be completed; finding and taking important files and of course economic damage.
**NC: There was approx. $100,000 in damage done to the facility could you tell us what equipment you damaged and why?**
DT: There was only one small laboratory in the dog and cat kennel we were in. We damaged as much as we could in the entire building after all the cats were safely away from the facility. Damaging torture devices and other equipment makes them inoperable to torture and kill animals anymore otherwise they could go back to torturing animals the very next day. Destroying the actual instruments of torture is practical. It ensures that the sadism will be stopped at least temporarily. It also ensures that they will be wasting money (which would have otherwise gone to vivisection) to hire extra security and install expensive alarm systems.
**NC: How did you damage it?**
DT: Inside the laboratory itself, we forced open every locked storage cabinet dumping the contents on the floor, smashed sterilizers and other equipment and splashed red paint everywhere. In their office, boxes of files pertaining to illegal sources of the dogs they used and research were taken, everything else was scattered on the floor and then soaked in muriatic acid. Throughout the facility, slogans were spray painted, red paint splashed on walls, electrical cords cut, toilets and sinks smashed. There was also one delivery truck outside used to transport animals from the facility back and forth to the main University lab, it had paint stripper dumped all over and the tires slashed and was also spray painted with slogans.
**NC: How did you leave the "blood" marks on the wall?**
DT: Red paint that had been thinned a little and placed into several plastic 2 liter soda bottles, which made it very easy to splash anywhere and everywhere.
**NC: What did you wear during the raid?**
DT: Coveralls to keep clothes underneath paint free, gloves, inexpensive throwaway shoes and balaclavas (in case of video security cameras.)
**NC: How did you get the animals out and how many were there?**
DT: The cats were originally going to be placed in large cloth bags and then carried to an awaiting vehicle and placed into cardboard cat carriers. Upon putting the first cat into a bag it was promptly shredded. So much for that plan - plan two went into effect as the cardboard cat carriers were carried two at a time across a long field, two cats placed in each box and then carried all the way back to the awaiting vehicle. 29 cats were liberated all together.

**NC: How long did the University raid take?**
DT: The entire time inside the facility probably took 3 hours or so, mostly because it took so long transporting the cats across a field to the truck.
**NC: How did you re-home the animals?**
DT: I did not take part in the re-homing of the animals. The cats were supposed to go to a home that would hold them for a while and then send them off to other homes where they could live out their lives free. The homes didn't get set in advance as they were supposed to. With a lot of hard work and stress, homes were finally found.
**NC: Is there anything you would have done differently?**
DT: The film and video footage taken and sent to the media had too many traces of where they were taken and helped police to track down the motel we used after words. More thought definitely needed to be put into not leaving any trace of location as to where the photos were taken.
**NC: How did you get caught?**
DT: An informant named Jessica Sandham. She was a woman who had rented a motel room where the cats were to be taken after the raid (where video and still photographs for the media were taken). Jessica who rented the room didn't have to show any identification at all but instead showed her own and did not tell anyone else that she had done this. Investigators, who started checking every motel/hotel in the entire city looking for similarities to the media, video and still photographs tracked down the motel we used. The room was rented by Jessica who was already in the National Crime Index Computer (unknown to me or her at that time) as a suspected animal liberation radical which of course rang big warning bells. After placing her under physical surveillance for over a week, on June 19th members of the Integrated Intelligence Unit knocked on her door and asked her to answer questions. Instead of saying "NO COMMENT" or "call my lawyers" or "fuck off," she went with them to answer questions. She was questioned for 4 1/2 hours on video-tape (unknown to her). Where the police tried all the typical police tricks and traps and she went for them all and talked freely about all she knew including rumours about the UofA raid. The police led her questions and tried to scare her by mentioning the so-called increasing "violence" in the animal liberation movement and my completely legal possession of several firearms. [Recommended reading; War at Home by Brian Glick, If An Agent Knocks, Agents of Repression by Ward Churchill.]
**NC: What happened to Jessica Sandham?**
DT: Jessica Michelle Charlotte Sandham (DOB Jan. 31/1973) is free, has always been free and was never arrested, we know immediately after the arrests she moved to another city and has since moved back to Edmonton and lives with her parents (12033-4t St., Edmonton, AB, Canada 403-479-1898). She was immediately disowned by the animal liberation community in which she was active, she has been labeled a traitor and informant in Canada.
**NC: Can you tell us about your initial arrest experience?**
DT: I was arrested Friday June 19th at approx. 5:30 pm. I had just finished working at a small store where I was the manager. The police, who had placed me under 24 hour physical surveillance since June 3 (two days after the action), knew where I was. I was standing at a transit stop when I heard a car screech to a stop behind me. As I glanced over my shoulder I saw two large men, obviously cops, jumping out with guns drawn. I was originally charged with 4 counts (Break and Enter, Mischief over $1000, Theft over $1000 and including a conspiracy charge that was later dropped) related to the UOfA liberation, after I was taken to the police station. I was then put in a holding tank and finally brought into an interview room with one of the cops. He proceeded to ask me a huge list of questions, to which I responded with little except that I would like to talk to a lawyer. As I was being arrested, the police were also executing search warrants on my partner,s and my apartment and a friends home. A warrant was also issued for the arrest of a friend of mine, Grant.
**NC: Can you explain your experience with the courts and jail?**
DT: I was finally processed after about 5 hours at the police station and 12 hours sitting in a holding tank at the Remand Centre and moved to a really dirty and cold dormitory with 80+ other men. Next I was

called out again and taken over to the police station to be charged with another 3 charges (arson and two mischief's). These charges were in regards to two actions at Billingsgate Fish Market. One was in December OE91 when the store and 4 large fish delivery trucks were spray painted with slogans, tires slashed and incendiary devices left on their front seats. Three of the incendiaries ignited causing approx.. $75,000 damage. The other action (also at Billingsgate Fish Company) was the following month when their store and three replacement rental trucks were spray painted with slogans and tires slashed. After a few days, I finally got moved into a unit in the Remand Centre, bunked up with a hyperactive 18 year old car thief, and another 56 'children' on one of two units called "the zoo" (so-called because of all the fights and craziness in general). I finally obtained a good lawyer, one of the top lawyers in Alberta, who took the case for a very low expense. He did his best and more a lot of the time. I would have much rather had an animal activist lawyer, but there's just not that many around in Canada. About four days after my arrest late one night just after lock-up, I got called out again and was brought over to the police station to be charged with yet more charges. This time I was charged with another 7 charges related to damage done to three billboards carrying advertisements for the Fur Council of Canada "Fur Our Choice Naturally". At one of the signs a note was left for Hook Outdoor Advertising telling them to stop running the ad's or it would be their most expensive advertisement campaign ever. At the end of December the A.L.F. entered Hook's yard and wrote a long message on the side of one of their vans telling about the horrors of fur production and one of the boom trucks was gutted by fire, another charge of arson. On Jan. 1, 1992 at Oullette Meat Packers, a van had it's tires slashed, side window smashed and a timed incendiary device was left on the seat. Both the building and van were painted with slogans. The incense sticks had gone out (according to court testimony) for some reason - extreme cold, wind? And so one more attempted arson charge and another mischief charge. The police were telling me they want six years in prison. Approximately June 29, 1992 a Canada-wide arrest warrant was issued for David Barbarash and photos of David were circulated to television stations and newspapers. David was wanted for three charges related to the UofA liberation (Break and Enter, Mischief over $1000, Theft over $1000). The Royal Canadian Mounted Police visited several activist's homes in B.C. looking for David. David disappeared underground. My attorney had seven separate bail hearings to try and get me released on bail, even with numerous conditions, to no avail. I was refused on the grounds that I 'was a threat to society' and that 'I may not appear for trial'. Even after my family offered to put up property and $50,000 cash for my bail. At the bail hearing before mine one day, the same judge granted bail for a person convicted of murder that was facing a trial for manslaughter. Early September 1993, I finally got my 4 day preliminary trial, after I'd been inside for over 14 months. Jessica Sandham took the stand and testified about her role in the UofA liberation ~ renting a motel room, buying paint and meeting with several people from 'out of town'. She also talked about the Billingsgate arson and how I had allegedly said that it looked like it would have been easy or was easy. The police testified all about the actions that I was charged with. My attorney got the police to answer questions about the surveillance they undertook and we learned that they had me and my residence under 24 hour physical surveillance in December 1992 for three weeks. June 3rd two days after the UofA liberation they had set up 24 hour physical surveillance on me and Grant, both our residence's, Jessica, and several 'targets' that they hoped might get 'hit'. They had placed legal 'bugs' on both mine and Grants phones and also a 'bug' in my residence. We also got the police to testify about involvement in the case from the FBI, BATF and Michigan University Police. Members from all three had actually travelled to Edmonton to take part in a second search of my residence, looking for more 'evidence'. Police also testified that the FBI took photocopies of all of my files, an entire filing cabinet. So four days later it was over and now it was time to wait for a two week trial. After a few weeks I finally heard that my trial date was not going to be for another 8-12 months and I would be in jail the whole time. The situation re: the UofA and the Billingsgate arson charges wasn't looking all that good because of evidence against me. My attorney had been trying to gel me a deal where I would plead guilty to the UofA and the Billingsgate arson charges and I would gel out with time served, the other charges would be dropped. On Oct. 12, 1993, I plead guilty to three charges - Break and Enter to Commit Theft and Mischief (UofA liberation) and arson (Billingsgate fire). I was acquitted of all the other charges against

me. Later that day I walked out a free man after 15 1/2 months inside. Within one week after I was out, I got a visit from the chief investigator, serving me with appeal papers. The police and prosecution didn't think that my 15 1/2 months locked up was enough. They wanted me to serve several more years. On March 8th, 1994, five months after I got out, the appeal was heard at the Alberta Court of Appeals (the highest court in Alberta). The Appeals Court reserved their decision. Their decision came several weeks later; they sentenced me to another two years, less a day inside. I was taken into custody immediately and shipped back to the Edmonton Remand Center. From Edmonton Remand I was transferred and spent 4 1/2 months in Calgary Correctional Facility (Spy Hill) and then 5 months at Fort Saskatchewan Correction Facility (The Fort). A lot of my time was spent on the phone helping out with other prisoners' support including Rod's (who had just been arrested) and working towards an early release. I spent my spare time reading, writing, playing cards, and working out. Time went by a lot quicker than in the Remand Center because there was a little more to do. Finally out Jan., 1995, I was granted an early release under probation and partial house arrest. I accepted it and was out yet again. For 4 months I was to be home from 6pm till 6 am, parole workers would call every night to make sure I was home and also knock on the door every other day or so. I also had to see my probation officer every week. After approx. 5 months, I was finally finished with the house arrest portion of my probation and now just had to visit every two weeks. Two days before completing it, my probation office ordered me over the phone to attend a meeting at his office on one hours notice - I refused. The next morning when I called him, he told me to turn myself in - he had pulled my probation because I was allegedly seen at the airport boarding a plane (I was not allowed to leave Edmonton without permission as part of my probation conditions). After contacting my attorney for advice on what to do, he told me that they could pull it at will and that I would likely have to serve another two weeks until my sentence expiration. Three days later I turned myself in and served another 10 days.

**NC: What happened to your co-defendant in this case?**

DT: Grant was arrested the day after me on June 20th on nothing other than complete speculation. He was charged with the same four counts related to the U of A liberation that I was. Approx. ten days later he was released on $4000 cash bail and stiff conditions including moving 3 hours away to another city to live with his parents, a curfew and report once a week until his trial. Grant did not have a criminal record and was 29 at the time. At Grant,s trial several months later the prosecutor gave him a stay of charges because they had no evidence at all.

**NC: How long were you in jail?**

DT: All together, just under two years. NC: What was prison like? DT: It was the first time I had been to jail in my life so it was quite eye opening in the beginning. I didn't know what to expect really. You got used to the routine really quick - you don't have much of a choice. Overall it really wasn't that bad though.

**NC: Did you fear for your personal safety while in prison?**

DT: No. Things were a little crazy at times, I got into several fights over my beliefs.

**NC: Did prison have any effects on you?**

DT: Being imprisoned strengthened my resolve even more. It gave me the chance to improve my mind and body. I got involved in weight training and jogging which strengthened my body. It made me realize even more that we need to keep up the pressure on animal abusers around the world on every level, both above-ground and the underground. We can win this war! I certainly knew that if I was caught doing A.L.F. activity, I could end up serving time in jail. But those are the risks we take. Every A.L.F. activist must be ready to go to jail rather than incriminate other A.L.F. activists or do anything that would put the animals' freedom at risk.

**NC: Do you have any regrets?**

DT: I wish we could have taken every animal there.

**NC: What words of wisdom do you have for other activists?**

DT: Don't let anything get you down, there's a lot of bad stuff happening out there, and things are pretty tough sometimes. Actions can still be done and NEED to happen. Work with as few people as you need to, make sure you know them all VERY well and KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT! You don't need to

spread rumours or gossip about other activists and actions or about your own. I'm in this for the animals - if you're not, get the fuck out. Thank you for your time and all that you have done for the animals. The personal sacrifices you made for animals are truly inspiring and needed if we ever want to see animal liberation become a reality. Best wishes to you Darren. *Article first published in No Compromise # 4, under the name 'doing time with the ALF. *Darren Thurston is now a free man.

## The full story about the arrest of two Dutch activists in 1996. Detailed facts on how they were caught and how this can prevent others from getting arrested.

*By rochelle.*

At around 6 in the morning on 25 March 1996, two separate teams of police officers entered the houses of Erik van der Laan, 20, and Frank Kocera, 25, in Amsterdam. A third team entered the house of Erik's parents in another city (knowing full well that Erik had recently moved to Amsterdam). They searched all three houses. Both Frank and Erik, who were at home in bed, were arrested. The police also took Frank's shoes, about 200 cassettes, most of his animal rights literature and anything else that they thought might be connected to the arson attacks and vandalism which they suspected the two men of committing. Friends and family were not informed as to the men's whereabouts. All police stations contacted denied that the men were being held there. After much research and persistence it was discovered that the men were being held separately in different cities. They were not being given vegan food and Erik did not eat for the first 5 days because he was only being served slabs of flesh.

**THE INTERROGATION.**

The day after the arrest and after a full day's questioning Frank finally gave in and confessed to the arson attacks, after being confronted with an overwhelming amount of proof that the police had relating to their case. The police were tougher on Frank as they suspected him of being the "leader". He was not informed of and did not know that he could choose his own lawyer, he also did not know that he could exercise his right to remain silent. I know it is hard to imagine that they were so naive, but hopefully others will learn from these mistakes.

**THE BEGINNING.**

Frank and Erik were active from 1993 onwards. They started off gluing locks at McDeath in their home town. They have confessed to approximately 28 counts of economic sabotage and attempted economic sabotage. One, which was to be their last arson attack in Schiedam caused over $1.5 million damage, and closed the slaughterhouse for at least 6 months. Anyone who has ever questioned the necessity of the A.L.F. has to admit that damage -- UNINSURED damage of such a huge sum -- causes animal murderers many sleepless nights and can put them out of business. Another attack, at a warehouse for game and poultry carcasses, resulted in $150,000 damage.

**HOW THE POLICE FOUND THEM.**

Their brief careers as activists with the newly formed Dutch wing of PETA would lead to them being followed, filmed, their phone tapped and their eventual arrests. It happened on 13 February of 1994, the two men, then living in separate cities were both arrested while protesting the live transport of calves from England to Dutch slaughterhouses via Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. The police had not yet made the connection that both men were close friends, and that though living in Amsterdam, Frank was born and raised in the same place as Erik. It did not take the police long to find out. By December 1995 a special RAT task force had been formed. They received assistance from the special "observation team", the DBRZ, who were specialized in tracing and following "terrorist" groups in Holland. The activists were using bottles with the brand name REAL COOL which were only available in their local

supermarket around the corner from where Frank was living and NOWHERE else in the entire area of North-Holland. Incense sticks and firecrackers were used as wicks to ignite the bottles which were filled with gasoline.

**SOME OF THE DUO'S ACTIONS.**

A brief summary of a few of the acts of economic sabotage:

End March 1995, a butcher gets gasoline poured through the letterbox in his butchery. A few streets away a meat transport trucks is burned to the ground. The police would later install a camera to film any illegal activity, should the culprits return.

At a livestock show in 1995, a bomb threat was received in the name from a group called RAT (RAT stands for Right Animal Treatment, one of two signatures that the men used). Later, in June an attempted arson attack on a ritual slaughterhouse followed with the warning "watch out, concentration camp".

A week later the locks are glued at many butchers stores and the windows covered in stickers with slogans, including the butcher who had previously been visited in March and who had his camera on at the time of the "attack", apparently nothing tangible appeared on the tape due to "atmospheric interference". On October 22, 1995 a truck used to transport elephants for notorious animal abusers Circus Krone is burnt to the ground.

5 November 1995, 5 trucks from a meat processing plant in Amstelveen are burnt to the ground, the slogan "animals are helpless" was left to explain the actions.

26 November 1995 the same thing happens, this time in Leiden (close to the Hague)Ô rom the RAT's .

**THE PHONEBOX TAP.**

The equivalent of the Dutch FBI -- the CRI -- finally got hard proof of what they said were telephone calls from RAT claiming responsibility for the arson attacks. This proof came from a separate police corps (in the Hague area) who had nothing to do with the case. On February 16 the Hague DA granted the RAT team permission to listen to the recordings. There are allegedly three recordings, all to the press from RAT in a male voice on the nights of 1/10/95, 5/11/95 & 26/11/95. All calls were made from one telephone box on Frank's street. WHY, the Hague police were tapping that particular telephone box remains a mystery (!). The tapes had to be examined, and the arrest would be 5 weeks later, and a month after the last attack in Schiedam where the two men caused the most damage of their short but fruitful career of A.L.F. activity. Interesting to note is that the police allegedly did not even have any dirt on RAT regarding the last attack, there was nothing in the case file about it and it only came to their attention when Frank confessed to it. Frank gave as the reason for confessing to everything that he was proud of what he did and wanted the world to know. He did it for the animals. Despite their naivety and innumerable silly mistakes (they obviously aren't professional criminals), the two men caused an extraordinary amount of damage to the meat industry, and their case is definitely drawing attention to the plight of animals. We have been getting support from all over Holland, and surprisingly welfare groups who were criticizing the A.L.F. in the press before the arrests, came to show their support at the court on 25 June. The usually moderate animal groups seem to be getting more militant. Best of all, the attacks on the meat industry have not abated. Since their incarceration, there have been more reports of activity by another A.L.F. cell. Briefly: a slaughterhouse received a bomb threat (false naturally) and had to evacuate the premises while the police searched for something that was not there.

**SENTENCING.**

On September 24, Frank Kocera (25) and Erik v/d Laan (21) were sentenced to 3 and 2 1/2 years in prison respectively, with no chance of early parole. Both men have been on remand in an Amsterdam jail since March of this year. This time will be deducted from their sentence. Frank and Erik caused 2.7 million guilders ($1.35 million) direct damage to the industry, and 3 million guilders indirect damage. They also succeeded in immobilizing a slaughterhouse for 6 months after an arson attack. The two confessed to 28

counts of arson and vandalism, but were charged with only three. The other 25 will not be pursued. Two weeks prior to the sentence, the prosecution demanded a 5 year sentence for Frank and 4 years for Erik.

**DURING THE TRIAL.**

Defence Attorney G. Spong requested that the case be dismissed, because Kocera and v/d Laan had sustained numerous human rights violations by the authorities who had kept them under intense observation for months leading up to their arrest. Spong also drew comparisons to Nazi Germany, saying that had an arsonist burned down Auschwitz, he/she would be considered a hero. He continued by saying that the two men believe that the meat industry is an Auschwitz for animals and they were motivated to protest this in the only way they knew how. The prosecution demanded a stiff sentence to serve as a deterrent and also as punishment for what she called "terrorism against a legal industry". Spong stated that only an individual with no morality could consider the meat industry a legal and normal industry. The two men stated in court that they were regretful of the method (arson) they used, but were still firmly committed to animal rights. They are Holland's first animal rights prisoners. The good news is that other A.L.F. cells have popped up and since the men's incarceration there have been other acts of economic sabotage against the meat industry! ***NEVER, EVER TALK TO THE AUTHORITIES!*** Committing A.L.F. actions is nothing to be ashamed of. However, they are not something you talk about either, especially to the authorities. Frank and Eric got off lucky with five years and four years in prison considering all that they confessed to. People need to understand there is absolutely no reason to talk to the authorities about the crimes you have committed. Most convictions result because the criminal confess their crimes to the police. Intuitively, that sounds stupid. What could possibly be the motivation to confessing? Confessing can't help you, and it does hurt you. So if you are ever picked up by the authorities, or they show up at your door asking questions, reply "No Comment" or "I have nothing to say to you." Answer all questions "No Comment" and exercise your right to remain silent. Do not try to outwit the authorities. They are trained to extract information from people using numerous strategies; good cop, bad cop; leading questions; warming up to you, and pretending things will be better if you just speak; making threats, etc. Now these tricks might sound ridiculous, but given the heightened state of emotional stress people are usually under, they often work. The authorities also have numerous ways to "trip you up" by finding inconsistencies in your stories and alibis. Sometimes a seemingly insignificant information will be used against you or a friend. Your best bet is to NOT TALK. It is much easier to fight a criminal charge that you haven't confessed to doing. And regardless of what they say, your silence cannot be used as proof of your guilt. It is merely an assertion of your civil liberties. Don't talk. It is your right. Use it and stay free! *Article first published in No Compromise # 4 ,under the title 'ALF activists busted'.

## A letter from Frank.

*(written to No Compromise during his incarceration)*

Hi there, Here's a little note from Amsterdam - thanx for the No Compromise you sent us. First, let me tell you the story why I decided to talk to the police. The first 2 days I told nothing. But then they came with taped phone calls from me to the press. Normally it's illegal for the police to tap phone-booths. My luck was that they were after a Colombian drug-gang -- they live in the same street as I. So the police had permission to tap those phone booths, the ones I did the calls at. So it was luck for the police, it was their first proof. They made a voice-recognition, which they can use in court. Then they came with some reports from an observation team. They followed us (twice) during an action. So that was their second proof. Holland is so small, I think it's as big as L.A., and at the time we were the only ones who did actions with arson. We always used the same method, incense, fireworks, etc. So with the proof and some stuff they found searching through my house they know all the actions we did. So with all that they had, what's the use in shutting up? They were going to convict me anyway. I thought, well I'm going to jail anyway, so I can tell them everything. In Holland, you get a lower sentence if you show some

cooperation, so from this point on, I tried to get the lowest sentence possible. Sure, when they don't have hard evidence it's better to shut up. Did it work? Well, I think so. They wanted to give me 5 years. The judge gave me three years with 8 months probation. In Holland, it's standard that 1/3 of your sentence gets off. This leaves me with 18 months and 20 days of which I've done seven months, so I have to do about a year now. So this is not bad especially when you look at the millions and millions of guilders we caused. We did lots of actions of which 14 were arson activities. And now, because I talked, the press came for interviews. I did a TV interview - it was a good program and this time from our point of view. I got a lot of positive reactions. So I can't say I regret talking to the police, when, if I would have shut my mouth, they (for sure) would have given me the whole 5 years! Sure we make mistakes, but other people and myself can learn from them, so these mistakes are not made by other people who take actions. At this moment more and more actions take place in Holland. There have now been a few more fires causing millions and millions of guilders damage. So I don't regret anything. Greetings from Holland.

## An interview with Melanie Arnold who served 3.5 years for an arson attack on a slaughterhouse.

*By Rod Coronado.*

**No Compromise: Hi ya Mel! Many of our readers are not familiar with the UK Animal Liberation movement and the highly successful campaigns of the A.L.F. so I thought it would be interesting to introduce you to them. Currently, you're serving a three and a half year sentence for arson related charges due to your participation in A.L.F. raids. What can you tell us about your case?**

Melanie Arnold: Well, the BSE crisis had hit Britain like a ten-ton sledge hammer. It hadn't quite filtered through to the public to the level it would subsequently reach, and the media, as usual, were keeping tight-lipped for the present, only releasing snippets of information in order to break the public in lightly. But we knew about it and what lay in store. The meat industry was to be hit right where it hurt (i.e. -- the pocket) by its own gratuitous greed karma; and in anticipation of many smaller meat depots going bust, we decided to help one of the larger slaughterhouses, that may have otherwise only tottered on the brink of downfall, to go well and truly over the edge. Ensors abattoir sat in Gloucestershire, a safe targeting distance from houses or the neighboring wildlife habitat. We recced it several times to monitor the late workers, patrol men, dog walkers, etc. just to establish a typical night's activity around the area we intended to torch. Having satisfied ourselves that this was a 'safe' venture, we went on to gain entry to the building to ascertain what we would need before dissolving into the night -- leaving no trace of our presence. Two weeks later we had bought, made and improvised all that we would need, and on the 10th June 1995, we made our way back, just the two of us. We entered the compound, broke the side windows of every van, refrigerated lorry and car and then withdrew to see if attention had been generated by the noise. It had not. We collected our cache of incendiary devices and placed this cocktail of potassium nitrate and sucrose with modified fuse, through each window and onto the upholstery of each vehicle. We then got into the abattoir building and began trashing the upstairs kitchen, dining area and locker rooms and we decided to cover the whole place in petrol, leading a fuse of inflammable material down the stairs and into the main slaughter hall. Again, we doused machinery in the surrounding area with copious amounts of petrol and set 20 incendiary devices by the main apparatus, including accompanying bags of the explosive mixture (and boy does it explode!). We then triggered off some fires manually and lit the devices to add to the inferno later. We lit the lorry devices last as these obviously are more noticeable and may bring attention when the building, burning away from the windowless interior, had only just got going. We then disappeared into the night, even as the first of the lorries exploded behind us. Technically, we got clear away with it. None of us were known to that area and our planning was such that it was highly unlikely that we would be caught on the job. The police and bomb squad didn't have a clue who was responsible and went on fishing trips to local sanctuaries. Unfortunately, my assisting activist also turned up at one of them to help build fences and the police searched and nabbed everyone. The police -- not knowing of Michael as an animal libber -- would never have searched his cottage had not his

unfortunate decision to work that morning transpired. Michael confessed his guilt primarily to defend the two other suspects who were entirely innocent of the attacks and had many animals in their charge, one of whom was actually 'put down' by police. But the growing circumstantial evidence had precipitated this decision anyway. From neighboUring sources my description was given, and the police knew of me well enough to identify the description and to arrest me 3 days later at my home in Northampton. I was interrogated on and off for several days and nights during which the police used every tactic in the book to encourage me to speak. They lied, they threatened, they cajoled, they pleaded, they flirted and they failed. The police tried to convince me that Michael had incriminated me in the making of the devices, and my response at this predictability, led to one inspector shouting "it's no good you laughing, Melanie." Lies, all of it. As far as I was concerned, either they had enough evidence, in which case they could charge me; or they didn't, in which case I wasn't going to help them find it. They charged us anyway under Section 2 of the Explosives Act and sent us to prison to await trial. Six months later, I was arrested and charged yet again by Cheshire Constabulary for the firebomb attack against 36 large milk tankers which had caused 2 million pounds worth of damage and had occurred two weeks before the Ensors incident. Again, I remained silent and again I listened to the same old threats. The only thing I gave was my blood, quite literally -- a donation because I didn't fancy being held down and forcibly syringed. Fifteen months later, we were forcibly brought to trial and both of us pled guilty and arranged for mitigation. Being caught is bad enough, but we have two obligations to fill when that happens. One is to ensure we say nothing to our interrogators and two is to ensure we get back out to the struggle as soon as possible. In any event, having expected a minimum of 6 years each - Michael received 5 and I was left with only three and one half years.

**NC: So what led you to the crossroads where you began to question the effectiveness of legal reform and began to participate in illegal activities?**

MA: I began to 'politically' campaign on behalf of animals from the age of 13 and, during the following years, I wrote endless letters, attended endless meetings and demos, and then questioned endlessly the validity of my endeavors -- what exactly was I achieving? Did I hear of results? Could I see it? Was it tangible enough to feel, to hold? Was I being listened to at all? After months of alternating nightmares and insomnia, of emotional turmoil and debate, I finally decided that I either was going to help animals, which meant doing it in a way that worked, and doing it for life or I should put the torment out of my mind and get on with my own. I chose the animals for life. From that turning point came the necessity to embrace non-violent direct action. It was blatantly clear to me that the government didn't have any intention of giving away what it couldn't afford to lose and that by bargaining for extra inches, less pain, and one form of suffering for another, we were accepting compromise, accepting disempowerment, accepting defeat. If the parliamentary system worked, if the law makers took notice of majority opinion, there would be equal pay for women, the health service would be adequately funded, hunting would be banned, fur would be outlawed, live exports abolished, vivisection banished to the annals of history.... It's simply not going to happen. Why? Because the exploitation of animals is big business and the food, pharmaceutical and petro-chemical industries upon which the national purse relies, are the foundations -- physically, emotionally, and economically -- of the wider societal abuses we all suffer. In high profile campaigns, the A.L.F. were seen to be stepping directly in-between the torture and the tortured; they were going for the economic jugular, causing abusers more trouble than it was worth, perhaps subjecting them to the same fear they so enjoy causing themselves and more importantly -- it worked. The results were valid, they were tangible, and when I first held the whimpering form of a damaged but rescued being, felt her heart beat against mine as I ran with her to freedom, I knew that I could do more in my lifetime as an A.L.F. activist on my own than a thousand people could do by the accepted legal channels, and then some.

**NC: Here in the States, I remember hearing about live animal liberations and daylight raids in England in the early and mid 80's, all of which were incredibly inspiring. By the late 80's the A.L.F. served to focus more on maximum economic damage and arson actions. Could you tell us a little about the choice of tactics the UK A.L.F. use and why they choose them?**

MA: The Animal Liberation League raids of the early 80's were certainly effective in their time and did much to generate the type of sympathy and interest that led to an increase in recruitment. These mass daylight raids involving hoards of activists were much publicized and media depictions of balaclaved warriors storming research facilities and bringing out animals and files led to great feelings of empowerment. But tactics must be fluid and interchangeable and those that will work against one form of abuse or one company may not be entirely suited to another. And, as the anti-fur campaigns grew in momentum alongside other important issues, it gradually took over as the #1 winnable target -- much as live exports is today -- and the A.L.F., grassroots organizations and local groups engaged in a concerted effort against this disgusting 'trade.'

*Article originally published in No Compromise #5, under the title 'The Flames Of Victory. An interview with convicted A.L.F.-activist Melanie Arnold'.

## In defence of the ALF.

*by Rod Coronado.*

Rod reacts in this article by Freeman Wicklund who criticizes the direct action tactic of the Animal Liberation Front. Since 1985, I have been a member of the Animal Liberation Front and am currently serving a 57-month sentence in federal prison for my participation in the 1992 ALF raid on Michigan State University's Furbearer Research Facility where 32 years of research intended to benefit the fur farm industry was destroyed and two mink from the Experimental Fur Farm were rescued. As a believer in the A.L.F. campaign of non-violent direct action, I would like to respond to Freeman Wicklund's article on direct action. Wicklund proposes that the A.L.F. 's campaign which has liberated tens of thousands of animals from suffering and cost their abusers millions through the non-violent destruction of inanimate property used to torture them, has actually resulted in the increase of animals being exploited. Yet he fails to present one example of this ever being the case. That was not the result following the A.L.F. 's 1984 raid on the University of Pennsylvania's Head Injury Laboratory which led to its closure, nor was it the case in 1991 and 1997 when ALF raids on Oregon State University's Experimental Fur Farm and Cavel West's horse slaughterhouse also led to their permanent closure. Over the last 15 years, ALF raids on fur retailers have also led to the closure of dozens of fur shops, and raids in recent years on fur farms have not only rescued literally tens of thousands of mink and foxes, but also contributed to the continuing bankruptcy of these animal concentration camps. Contrary to Wicklund's supposition, vivisectors such as those at the University of Arizona, where a 1989 raid resulted in the liberation of over 1,200 laboratory animals, have acknowledged that targeting by the ALF has led to the reduction in the number of animals used in experiments and the increased vigilance in reducing animal suffering in an attempt to avoid charges of animal cruelty. We are supposed to believe that actually achieving these concrete victories towards the goal of total animal liberation is detrimental and possibly counter-productive? While segments of the animal rights movement might accept a compromise which leaves the current victims of animal abuse in their present torturous conditions, while hoping that more passive resistance might reverse the lack of morality among the world's most powerful industries and governments, we in the ALF do not. The escalation of institutionalized animal abuse in this last century has proven that animal abusers are not guided by morality, but by money. As long as there is a profit to be made through the exploitation of animals and the natural world, it will continue despite legitimate protest. The ALF, as the underground wing of the animal rights movement, has for years looked into the eyes of our animal relations in the laboratories, the factories and on fur farms. After looking in those eyes, all arguments we have tried to use to rationalize a less aggressive strategy, for the sake of a long-term victory are seen by those prisoners as one thing: betrayal. For those animals suffering today, as we debate the many ways our movement helps them, surely we should be able to agree that their immediate liberation whenever possible should be supported and even encouraged. The strategic and tactical sacrifice Wicklund proposes the ALF make by substituting ALF-type direct action for a more conscious assuaging tactic and strategy, ignores the fact that both strategies are capable of coexisting for the greater good, and we need not eliminate any of our

diverse means which have brought about victory for the animals. No one tactic stands to suffer because of the existence of the other, as many for years have feared. By questioning the effectiveness and appropriateness of the A.L.F. 's strategy, we are nurturing our separation from nature and animals, rather than recognizing our sisterhood and brotherhood with all life that calls on our hearts to protect those we have chosen to represent. When those of us in the animal rights movement truly embrace the philosophy and belief that all life is sacred, equal to our own and indeed our very relation, we begin to realize just how difficult it is to turn away from the tactics the ALF used to bring about victory here and now for our nonhuman constituents. The question we in the animal rights movement should ask ourselves is what course of action would we justify if it were our own mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers or dearest loved ones in the torture chambers instead of unfamiliar nameless animals? Then, is the ALF justified in its choice of tactics? Once we answer these questions honestly, we might appreciate that in over 15 years of operation in America the ALF has yet to cause even one physical injury-let alone loss of life-in our campaign that has given liberty to tens of thousands of the silent victims of human's war against the animal people. Tens of thousands once loved by those who knew them before their forced separation. Still, the ALF is not only the animals' freedom fighters, but yours, too. Without the support of countless animal rights activists who have helped find loving homes for liberated animals and helped finance our campaigns, we would cease to exist. When the majority in the animal rights movement deems our actions unnecessary or counterproductive to the goals of animal liberation, liberations and actions will begin to fade. It is my experience though, that the majority of us secretly (if not publicly) cheer when we hear of another ALF raid, such as those fur farms in the Midwest this past August where thousands of mink and foxes were given their only chance for freedom. It is hard to believe that animals or our movement would be better off without the ALF. Without question, more animals-not less-are alive and living in peace today because of the ALF. In all fairness to those who accuse the ALF of violent tactics, we must ask ourselves what is violent and non-violent? Is a minimal violent response to an attack of violence ever justified? We may answer the first question, but it is only for those truly victimized by violence to answer the second, remembering that Gandhi himself said that, "Violence was preferable to cowardice...." Is it violent to destroy, with no harm to any living being, the concrete and steel killing machines and torture chambers whose sole purpose is the destruction of innocent life? As the Nuremberg Principles rightly accused those aware of Nazi war crimes of gross apathy and inaction, do those of us aware of horrendous crimes against nature and animals bear any of the moral responsibility for doing nothing to prevent their suffering when the only excuse we can cling to is that to do so would violate the laws of our society and endanger our own freedom? The animal rights movement has long explained our moral obligation towards preventing suffering to the animal races with words, yet we are sometimes quick to judge and criticize the ALF who demonstrate that commitment with action: actions which may be illegal in our unjust society, but most definitely not immoral or unjustified to the laws of nature and humanity. Such adherence to a principle of non-violence as that practiced by the ALF may be aggressive rather than passive, but it is still in adherence to even Gandhi's principles of non-violence, which never condemned destruction of property as violence. The struggle for independence in India and civil rights in America is often cited as a successful demonstration of the power of non-violence, but only someone unfamiliar with these movements would think passive resistance as exemplified by Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. was solely responsible for victory on these two fronts. Wicklund fails to mention the legitimate segments of both resistances which employed aggressive non-violence and even armed struggle, segments which never were condemned by Gandhi or King, like the Bengali's revolutionaries whose guerrilla warfare in India surpassed by years Gandhi's civil disobedience campaign. Nor does he give credit to African-American nationalists such as Malcolm X, the Nation of Islam, the Black Panther Party and Angela Davis, who helped build the foundation of this country's anti-racism movement which to this day continues its fight against institutionalized racism without condemnation of those who believe in self defence and aggressive tactics. Integral to Wicklund's argument in support of his definition of non-violence, is the belief that the animal rights movement must present our struggle to the public via the media, in a way that will allow it to portray us as morally superior. While the ALF believes it is counterproductive to verbally and physically

assault anyone, we do not believe our cause is advanced by passively demonstrating that we are willing to endure acts of violence against us. Neither do we demonstrate moral superiority by helping to create an atmosphere that has seen more physical violence than any ever witnessed in ALF actions. With the increase of physical violence against non-violent civil disobedience participants, we inadvertently contribute to the media's ability to shift the focus from the immorality of animal abuse to the actions of our own activists. It must also be remembered that historically, movements for social change have rarely been presented without extreme bias in the media. This is no coincidence as often media institutions are business partners with animal abuse industries. Today's media corporations are controlled by executives whose business depends largely on advertising dollars supplied by the industries dependent on animal exploitation. Neither can we deny that the highly competitive media establishment is driven not by a desire to present the unbiased truth in addressing the moral concerns of the world, but by a demand for news coverage that will sell advertising space and papers, and boost ratings. If truth and morality were the driving force behind mainstream journalism, the business practices and actions of animal and earth destroying industries, the world's militaries and police would be reported as the true acts of terrorism that they often are. And the actions-be they legal or illegal-of the animal rights movement would be presented for what they really are: actions that not only respect the sacredness of all life, but also alert the public and consumers to government and corporate fraud, the endangerment of human and environmental health; and economic policies that readily cater to big business at the expense of taxpayers, public lands and wildlife. Instead, the media defends the actions of those it profits from and who share its world view, while using biased reporting to drive a wedge between the ALF and those who might otherwise support our actions. Allowing our movement's strategy to be influenced by the media who retain a vested interest in animal abuse, is to play into the bloodied hands of government and big business who hope that the public will also label the non-violent actions of the ALF, which spare innocent life, as acts of terrorism. Wicklund asks the animal rights movement to determine its tactics not by its ability to achieve victory against animal abuse, but by its potential to not offend or isolate the sensibilities of the media establishment, which reinforces the lifestyles that sanction animal abuse, or the very people who themselves create wealth and power through animal abuse. Pursuing a strategy that hopes to appeal to the morality of those who rarely if ever demonstrate any towards the non-human world is noble, but it should not be at the expense of the very means which have for years spared individual animals from a life of suffering. Whether the media presents the animal rights movement in a favourable light or not has to this day done little to affect our movement's growth and the public's ability to differentiate between right and wrong. For this reason, the A.L.F. 's actions throughout the years have been guided by the determination of what will prevent the suffering of animals in the future, while also sparing the lives of those presently being abused. Only secondary consideration is given to whether such actions will achieve favourable media coverage, something that is increasingly rare in an age where any challenge through illegal activity to the unjust economic interests of this country is labelled as terrorism. The ALF has never endorsed or participated in physical violence nor will it ever. The ALF does not support actions with the intent of slightest risk of causing physical injury or loss of life and our ability to avoid such violence in years of operations is no coincidence. We are not fighting a violent war, but fighting with aggressive non-violence to end the one against nonhuman life. Every member of my past ALF cells who have carried out raids on laboratories, fur and factory farms and other institutions of animal abuse in the last 13 years, have been motivated not by hate or a willingness to rationalize or use violence, but love and a tremendous sense of compassion for the other races of life with whom we share the earth. My fellow Animal Liberation Front volunteers have always been grounded in such a reverence and respect for life and freedom that, together, in the course of every ALF action we ever participated in, we were willing to risk losing our own to obtain that of our victimized animal relations. Far from compromising the principles of non-violence, the A.L.F. 's actions have and always will be those of a highly morally disciplined group of caring human beings, whose efforts would be hypocritical if they ever sanctioned physical violence. The ALF exists in part to provide an avenue of freedom for those innocent beings the animal rights movement is unable to rescue legally at this time. The ALF brings hope when others feel hopeless. For the peaceful warriors of

the ALF, non-violent direct action to save lives remains not our choice, but every enlightened human being's obligation.. In February, 1996 I was in a state of helplessness and desparation. I simply had to stop the bloodshed. I knew that critical, immediate action was required. I knew that I could accomplish this and therefore had an obligation to do so. I would say that the crisis in Newfoundland has only worsened. I certainly cannot recommend this line of action to anyone and everyone - it is an entirely personal decision. I will offer these bits of advice though: look at the whole picture; ensure you have a workable and dynamic plan; definitely don't make the same mistakes I did; arson is potentially very dangerous and will land you a hefty sentence - it also is hard to get paroled for arson charges; always ensure that nobody will get hurt - before, during and after; always wear gloves to avoid any fingerprints (the RCMP checked my fingerprints against those recovered from other actions including the fire at a sawmill in the B.C. interior in 1995); if you do get caught, don't answer any police questions, even if you know they are barking up the wrong tree - this will waste otherwise valuable investigation time; in this case, don't ever talk to anyone about your charges - I know some people who are doing time right now because they told too much to fellow inmates who later turned out to be RATS. I'm probably forgetting a great deal I could offer as advice and I apologize for this. *Article taken from No Compromise #11

## Government repression in the U.S.

*By Rod Coronado.*

As attention of the nation is on Kenneth Starr's abuse of the grand jury system and the 18 month imprisonment on contempt charges of Susan McDougal, a witness in the Whitewater investigation who has refused to testify, the animal liberation movement knows all too well what it's like to face the intense focus of a political witch hunt that can stretch on for years. In the summer of 1991, following ALF actions in Oregon and Washington, federal grand juries began investigating not only the ALF, but the law-abiding activities of animal rights and Earth First! activists. An ex-girlfriend of one activist was used to gather information; the friend of another was offered paid tuition to the police academy he planned to attend; mothers of suspects were singled out for psychological intimidation; homes, workplaces and storage lockers were raided, physical and electronic surveillance were used against activists and their families; dozens were called to testify without attorneys present and 4 people went to jail for 6 months each rather than cooperate with grand jury inquisitors. While President Clinton and Hillary squirm under the scrutiny usually reserved for their constituents, political commentators are quick to criticize what many agree is an abuse of the legal process in the Whitewater investigation which has kept alive the grand jury inquiry for over 4 years. Yet there was and is no rush to condemn the very same abuses when they are used against the animal liberation movement. Not that we should expect true justice from a legal system built on exploitation of others. The federal investigation of the ALF in the early '90s failed to produce a single indictment for 3 years and only after 4 years of investigations and untold millions of taxpayer dollars wasted in the hunt, did they obtain a conviction of an ALF volunteer and then for only 4-1/2 years. This political manipulation of the legal system, which claimed only to be concerned with preventing violent crime, is even more preposterous when, in the convicted ALF volunteer's plea agreement, the U.S. government itself admits that in none of the investigated ALF actions were there any physical injuries or even a threat to humans as all the targets were unoccupied research labs, offices, fur farms and suppliers. Hardly much of a return on an investment from a justice system that is, with increasing frequency, being used to prosecute those who threaten big business and the government itself, rather than violent offenders targeting women, children and senior citizens. Now, 7 years after that earlier grand jury began investigating the ALF for its anti-fur campaign, the Department of Justice has determined that Utah is the latest breeding ground for ALF activity. And once again, despite not one person having ever been injured or even threatened with injury as a result of ALF actions, a federal grand jury in Utah has produced another indictment that threatens to lock away 19 year-old ALF volunteer Josh Ellerman for over 30 years. To those who doubt there is a political motivation behind targeting the animal liberation movement for government harassment and prosecution, one need only look at the developments

made toward fighting "domestic terrorism" since the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. While the federal government's bureaucracy is supposedly its smallest size since early 1970s, according to the General Accounting Office, agencies responsible for combating terrorism have grown. The Department of Justice and the FBI (those federal agencies which have recently stated that the ALF is a serious domestic terrorist threat) have requested a record $725 million. That's four times as much money as they spent on counter-terrorism activities previous to the OKC bombing. Also the FBI now has 2,600 agents assigned to counter-terrorism, up from just 500 in 1995. This growth contradicts actual terrorist activity which in recent years has actually fallen to its lowest level since 1971 according to the State Department's reports. Then why all the hysteria about the terrorist threat in America? With federal law-enforcement agencies - such as those which attempt to convince the public that groups like the ALF are a terrorist threat - battling to justify their growth and greater intrusion into our constitutionally protected civil rights, they have learned to capitalize on the emotional outrage expressed at the OKC bombing. By identifying "terrorist threats" under their jurisdiction, agencies like the FBI and ATF become eligible to receive the hundreds of millions (of dollars) being sanctioned by Congress to combat terrorism. In a recent USA Today report, Larry Johnson, a former State Department coordinator of counter-terrorism affairs acknowledged the concern that some federal agencies may be citing terrorism to justify larger budgets for themselves, "When you say 'terrorism,' it makes you relevant and when you're relevant you can justify added budget." With the Cold War now over and thousands of law enforcement professionals seeking an enemy to vilify, it becomes a matter of their very survival that they should turn toward investigating and prosecuting movements such as the ALF, who threaten not human life, but corporate wealth and the government sponsorship of animal abuse and environmental destruction upon which they are built. Recent economic developments in the U.S. and other overdeveloped countries have seen the globalization of the world's marketplace with imperial-like forces pushing to override environmental regulations and squash domestic resistance to those who stand in their way. Whereas in the last 50 years U.S. political forces were behind the use of deadly repression to smash what they claimed was a communist threat, the very same forces now seem intent on using equally oppressive measures against any movement who oppose their "New World Order." And that is where the animal liberation movement comes in, according to the Department of Justice. It is because of their desire for self-preservation and to protect its' fast growing globalized economic policy that we see the forces of the United States now actively targeting our movement of non-violent resistance to animal and earth abuse. This process of criminalization of our moral and political struggle is evident in statements made by Assistant U.S. District Attorney for Utah, Brooke Wells, when she stated during the 1997 sentencing of ALF volunteer Jacob Kennison that a message needed to be sent to animal rights activists that, "Violence in furtherance of a cause...is against the law and must be punished to the full extent of the law." Kennison was given the maximum allowable sentence under federal guidelines of 16 months and still remains a suspect in other ALF investigations in Utah. In 1995, similar words were spoken by my sentencing judge when he stated that a "deterrent" had to be put in place against further ALF action by giving me the maximum allowable sentence. Rather than serving as a deterrent, federal officials need to realize that no amount of ALF volunteers in prison will prevent the growth of our movement as long as institutionalized animal abuse is given minimal consideration when profits are the objective. The accusations of the government, industry and corporate media that we are terrorists are baseless. I am reminded of real acts of terrorism that took place during the last FBI/ATF investigation of the ALF in the early '90s. In 1993 both the FBI and ATF were responsible for burning to death 86 people including 26 children in Waco, Texas. The previous year, an FBI sharpshooter shot a suspect's wife in the face as she held her baby, killing her. The suspect, Randy Weaver was later acquitted of all charges, but the FBI sniper walks free. And we aren't even beginning to address the terror that is committed by corporate and other government protected animal abusers behind locked laboratory doors, factory and fur farms or experienced by animals in leghold and other cruel traps. For me, separating the real terrorists from the freedom fighters is as easy as looking to see who has the blood on their hands. While sustaining the increased imprisonment of ALF volunteers and the animal nations, we must remember that we will gain nothing substantial for our nonhuman constituents without our own personal

sacrifice. It is unfair, but such has been the fact for every great moral struggle in modern history. Unfortunately we don't make the rules - we just play the game. Only through the determination exemplified by our growing ranks when we refuse to buckle under government repression will our opposition eventually be forced to reckon with us in a civil manner. When every new animal abuse enterprise must factor into their prospective budgets the possibility that they might be targeted by our less passive forces, be they the ALF, demonstrators or boycott organizers, then and only then will they begin to see the need to change. Until then, while others are willing to compromise for short-term victories, we in the grassroots animal liberation movement must remain undeterred by any price we are forced to pay for total animal liberation. In the meantime, as some journalists continue to feed from the bloody hands of corporate and government spin doctors intent on portraying our movement as one that is increasingly violent, we must remind them that most violent crimes committed by animal and earth abusing corporations and the government itself rarely ever are investigated with the vigor used to investigate those responsible for highlighting those atrocities. We know all too well what the consequence is of letting government sanctioned murderers walk free while investigating members of a movement innocent of a single loss of life or injury like ours. While grand jury inquisitors, FBI and ATF agents busied themselves with chasing the ALF in the early '90s, U.S. service man, Timothy McVeigh was awarded with the Bronze Star for his role in killing Iraqi men, women and children. It continues though, that when we reveal the truth its called propaganda, but when government and private industries spread their lies its called the news.*Article originally published in No Compromise #9, under the title 'Government Sanctioned Repression at All Time High - Fight Back!'

## Rod Coronado's experience with government repression.

As animal liberationists, it is important to recognize that, in society's eyes, we support terrorism. Of course our actions and those of the A.L.F. have never resulted in even one injury let alone death, yet the Department of Justice labels the A.L.F. as a domestic terrorist organization. The laws of the land have decided that private property shall take precedence over life and, as such, any actions to preserve life are likely to be deemed criminal. Feds Cry "Terrorism" This is not something unique to the animal liberation movement. Ploughshares activists, many of whom are Catholic priests, for many years have attacked the equipment of the U.S. military death machine whose sole intent is killing people and, as a result, have served long prison sentences. Earth First! activists, whose only targets were ski-lifts and powerlines serving mines and pump stations, were infiltrated for two years by an FBI agent who then busted them in the act of cutting down a powerline in Arizona in 1989. All of this means that the non-violent actions we participate in and support are likely to be viewed by the federal government as the work of extremists who may employ terrorism to achieve their goals. Of course, this same charge has historically applied to America's colonialist, anti-slavery advocates, African American community organizers, American Indian Movement members, anti-Vietnam war activists and now us. And, as proven in 1973 in Wounded Knee, South Dakota, the U.S. federal law enforcement community and military forces are prepared and willing to use deadly force to stop their own citizens they deemed as enemies of the state. Now, we can argue till we're blue in the face that we're not real terrorists and those in the labs, slaughterhouses, fur farms, hunting blinds, factory farms, military and police forces are; but our voices matter little to the big money interests who place politicians, the police and judges in power – those who just so happen to be the very same people we oppose. The pharmaceutical, medical, agricultural/"food," military, timber, mining and petrol chemical industries control the courts, Congress and the media, so it's best if we just recognize the likelihood of our beliefs being criminalized and prepare for the government repression which has already began.

**FIRST ENCOUNTER.**

My first encounter with the FBI was in 1988 after the A.L.F. and Animal Rights Militia (ARM) had firebombed a veal processor, a slaughterhouse, a poultry plant and a butcher shop in Santa Clara County,

California. FBI agents wanted to speak with me because of the obvious escalation in illegal animal liberation activities, my history with Sea Shepherd and my arrest in Canada for A.L.F. smash attacks. My first mistake was just talking to the FBI. I felt I had nothing to hide. The agent was cordial and simply asked if I had been approached by the A.L.F. or ARM, asking to be recruited or to be their spokesperson. I said no. But, as I was willing to talk, his calls persisted. Finally, he asked me to come down to his office and tell him about Sea Shepherd's 1986 raid on the Icelandic whaling industry - an action for which I had accepted personal responsibility. The FBI agent said that Iceland was soon to file an extradition application and that it would be in my best interest to cooperate. He asserted that if I didn't cooperate, the FBI would be forced to arrest me if the extradition order was granted. The agent also said that if I made a signed statement, it would help to show the courts that I was cooperative, which would help me should I be officially charged.

**NON-COOPERATION WITH THE FEDS.**

I called his bluff and refused and never heard from him again. I now realize that, had I made the official statement he was requesting, it would have been used against me in the grand jury proceedings when federal prosecutors were trying to convince jurors that I was a criminal. What might appear as a harmless confirmation of a publicly known fact can easily haunt you in the future as a sworn statement made to a federal agent. That is why we should never speak to the FBI. In 1989, I was contacted again by the FBI who asked me point-blank what I knew about the A.L.F.. I told the agent to either present a subpoena or a warrant. He asked where I could be served a subpoena; I gave him my address and never heard from him again. When you know your right to remain silent, you make the FBI's job ten times harder. In 1990 the FBI approached my parents. They were accompanied by a man who my mom said "looked just like one of your friends, with long hair and a beard." The agents showed my mother photos of activists and asked if she had seen any of them hanging around with me. The FBI said the activists were suspects in the firebombing of an army recruitment centre. They asked that I contact them, which I did in the hopes that by seeing the photos, I could then warn the activists that they were under surveillance. When I realized it was a stupid idea to try to beat the FBI at their own game, I cancelled my meeting with them. Likewise, no activists should feel they can gain information by talking with the FBI. The moment you begin talking to the FBI, the more they will approach you, knowing you will talk. There will always be two agents, as one is trained in asking questions while the other will evaluate your body language for subliminal messages as to which subjects you are comfortable discussing and which ones trouble you. So even though you may say nothing, the FBI are still able to gather intelligence. Narcs Among Us. In 1990, the Earth Night Action Group toppled powerlines from a coal-fired power plant and the FBI was swarming Northern California. They were successful in pressuring the former girlfriend of an animal rights activist into being wired with a recording device to try to gather information from other activists about the sabotage. That is why activists should never openly speculate as to who might have done what action both in person or on the phone, as we are only doing the FBI's job for them. Once the FBI has associated a particular illegal act with a political idealism or cause, then the way is paved for surveillance, wire-taps, grand jury subpoenas and other forms of governmental repression of the individuals or groups associated with that cause. Once again, we can be outraged at this and scream bloody murder that our civil rights are being violated but, in doing so, it's not going to change a damn thing. We either can accept that the A.L.F., animal liberation and earth defence in general, are major targets for police repression and act accordingly, or we can go back to supporting only the ineffective tactics controlled and allowed by our opposition. But, there is no room in any legitimate, illegal, direct action struggle for those who want to be seen as militants who talk the talk but don't walk the walk. Those are the people who bring down the heat yet can't stand the fire. Prove to the animals and the earth where your heart lies and to no other. Feds target visible warriors. Later in 1990, two Earth First! organizers were the targets of a car-bomb. Following the assassination attempt, the two victims themselves were accused of transporting explosives and, while the real bombers went free, myself and many other Northern California activists began to be questioned and put under police surveillance. During this time, Santa Cruz County was seen in the

government's eyes as "a breeding ground for eco-terrorists." A sympathetic reporter even told us of seeing "an eco-terrorist's flow chart" in the Sheriff's Department, listing as "eco-terrorists," any activists who had been arrested for civil disobedience. No evidence of actual criminal involvement was necessary; just the willingness to get arrested for earth defence and animal liberation was enough for you to be seen as a potential terrorist. There is every reason to believe that when investigating A.L.F. activities, the FBI first surveys activists with CD arrest records. The FBI sees it as a logical progression that one will first protest, do CD and then commit illegal direct action. I have seen A.L.F. activists who never had any encounters with law enforcement officials nor even had their names mentioned by the FBI, all because they never went to demos and never did CD. Witch hunt. In 1991, A.L.F. actions moved to the Northwest and with them the FBI's focus on animal liberation investigations. Grand juries were convened in Oregon and Washington to investigate arson attacks on fur industry targets. At this time, the Coalition Against Fur Farms (CAFF) and PETA were the only organizations speaking out in defence of the A.L.F. and, as a result, made easy targets for the FBI. The FBI repression of the animal rights movement from 1987 to 1991 had the chilling effect of silencing previously vocal supporters of the A.L.F.

**A.L.F. BETRAYED.**

In this way, the A.L.F. was abandoned by all but a few. Where in the past it had become popular to support the A.L.F. - now, with the price of that support being FBI harassment, the A.L.F. was left with few to defend their actions to the movement and media. What frustrated me the most during this time (while I both participated in A.L.F. actions and publicly defended them), was the fact that other activists would whisper to me their support yet were afraid to pen an article about the A.L.F. and their anti-fur farm raids, let alone participate or offer physical or financial support. It must be said that, for all the criticisms I've heard about PETA, they at least were not afraid to voice public support for the A.L.F. and report A.L.F. raids in their newsletters and to the media. And, when activists were subpoenaed to the grand juries, PETA offered financial and legal support where others had failed. As the coordinator for CAFF, I wrote numerous articles for the Animal's Voice and the Earth First! Journal about the A.L.F. 's recent raids. I also gave media interviews much in the same fashion as SOAR and CAFT now does. Investigations Focus. Following these actions, the FBI's focus shifted to me. Had a wider body of vocal and visible support been evident for the A.L.F. during 1991, I might have been able to last longer as an A.L.F. activist. Had more activists been aware of their rights and not been afraid of the FBI, especially when they themselves were not even guilty of any crimes, the government would have seen widespread support for the A.L.F. and not known where to begin its investigations. I'll be the first to admit that, as an A.L.F. activist, I should have been the last person to publicly defend them and their actions. But with the evidence we had gathered over the last year of fur farm animal abuse and with A.L.F. attacks on that same industry, I felt it was necessary for someone to explain the A.L.F. 's actions and not miss an opportunity to strike an additional blow to the fur industry through the media. FBI Terrorize Family, Friends. By fall of 1991, the FBI had returned to my parents home and work, accusing me of being an A.L.F. member and telling them that I was working with explosives. The FBI tried to intimidate my family into cooperating by telling them that I needed to be stopped before someone was injured or killed. By this time, the FBI had realized that I myself would not talk with them. They began to focus pressure on my family, friends, and former girlfriend. By the beginning of 1992, the FBI upgraded its A.L.F. investigations when a package, containing stolen records from a mink research lab that had been torched, was intercepted. The package was addressed to the house of a former PETA employee. When a search warrant was executed night-vision goggles, radios, balaclavas and maps of labs in Louisiana were found. It had always been known that if the FBI could make a connection between the A.L.F. and PETA, they could be destroyed by Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organisations (RICO) laws. The government was already planning on charging the A.L.F. under the RICO law as it also covers arson, interstate transportation and organizing the committing of a crime. This was and probably still is one of the goals of the FBI. Feds Close In. While I watched as friends and other activists were served subpoenas, and PETA was targeted for their alleged association with the A.L.F., the rest of the animal rights movement began to waver. Individuals

and groups saw what was happening to vocal supporters of the A.L.F. and chose to remain silent. One individual who was subpoenaed to the grand jury told me that the questions asked were solely about me. One by one, CAFF activists were harassed and subpoenaed, as well as former roommates, journalists who had interviewed me and Earth First! activists. Certain activists were threatened with having their children taken from them by the FBI and, in southern Oregon, a former home of mine was raided with a helicopter by the FBI and ATF, despite the fact that the Feds had been saying that I was only a "person of interest" and not the subject of an arrest warrant. An activist who had purchased my car was subpoenaed and harassed and the marine mammal protection ship, "Sea Shepherd," was raided by the FBI and ATF and twice by U.S. Customs when it was suspected I was aboard. The Pressure Mounts. Far from what happened to me, what was most despicable was the treatment of activists' parents and families who were targets of grand juries: · One family I had visited in Michigan was specifically targeted. A family friend, with whom we had dinner, was approached by the FBI and told that if he was able to get an activist to speak a suspect's full name (only the suspect's first name was known) on the telephone, the Feds would pay his police academy tuition. He refused. · The sister-in-law of a suspect was approached at her work and told that if she helped the FBI she would be eligible for a $35,000 reward. She refused. · The FBI staked out the church where an activist's father ministered and, at one point, threatened the church's secretary with imprisonment, accusing the church of hiding fugitives. Non-Cooperation: Our Best Defence. What angered the FBI most was the stubbornness of people they tried to question. Individual activists' families and friends complicated the FBI's job by refusing to answer any questions without a subpoena. My parents were targeted by a particularly vile agent who stopped by their house to show them my wanted poster and to tell them that, if they really loved me, they would tell him where I was before some fur farmer or local cop shot me. Another time, the FBI arrested a Guatamalan refugee who worked for my family, handcuffing him and dragging him downtown. When my father protested, the FBI released him, apologizing that they had mistakenly thought he was me. Later it was discovered that when my parents were away on vacation, their house was broken into and a floor plan was drawn up for future surveillance. Finally, when my mother was served with a subpoena to the grand jury, she answered her door telling the agent she wouldn't talk to him because she was already taking medication for the stress they were causing. The agent replied, "This ought to help your stress," and handed her a subpoena. By tracing phone records from calls I had made with a credit card, one by one, the FBI questioned everyone with whom I had come in contact. Of course, the attention directed on me was in a large part due to the fact that I was the subject of a grand jury investigation, rather than someone subpoenaed to testify. To this day, I have never been questioned by the FBI or a grand jury. Those who were called to testify either answered a few simple questions and were granted immunity from prosecution or refused to testify. By the time of my arrest in 1994, four people had spent between five and six months in jail for refusing to testify. Meanwhile I avoided more close calls with the FBI. Close Call. In one particularly chilling incident, activists visited me in one of my hideouts. I had instructed them not to drive their own vehicle for fear that a satellite tracking device might be placed on the vehicle, as one activist was a known acquaintance of mine. The activists met me at a previously agreed location, driving their own vehicle. We left the vehicle 30 miles from where I was staying, my anger overtaken by my joy at seeing a friend. When we picked up the vehicle a few days later, I instructed the driver to follow me at a distance and maintain an open channel on our radios. We gassed up at different gas stations. But, as we were leaving a small town, I noticed a late-model American car in perfect condition but with mud splattered all over it. The car was backed into a road bank; I recognized it as one of the few cars to have passed us in the small town where we had gassed up. I radioed my friend about it and instructed them to meet us at a pre-arranged destination. When they did ,they were frantic because they had surprised that same car who had pulled off the road at another location, with the lights off. The area where we met was very remote and, as we talked, we could see the approaching headlights of the car behind us; the lights went off before the car reached us. It is my conclusion that, with the aid of a satellite tracking device, the FBI were using my friend as bait to lead them to me while I was on the run. Help the Undergound Resistance. Two things are required by any movement sincere about its attempts to sustain an underground resistance. The first is a

structure to support those warriors who choose to live life in the underground away from all above-ground politics and who can be supported financially and morally by their legal counterparts. Every legitimate revolutionary struggle has this structure. The other requirement is the uniform recognition by above-ground supporters that one must refuse to speak about other activists to any law enforcement agency. Of equal importance is an understanding and acceptance to never speculate over the phone or computer as to who might be an A.L.F. member or how you heard so-and-so talking to so-and-so about how he or she wanted to strike a particular animal abuse target. We must remember that the consequences of such actions could easily result in your own subpoenaing to a grand jury or, even worse, your targeting by the grand jury, as well as endangering other activists. Speaking with law enforcement officials can provide investigators with enough information to obtain search warrants and authorization for phone- and wire-taps. All these things are made much easier to obtain in light of President Clinton's recent signing of "anti-terrorism" legislation. A grand jury will be convened to gather information with the hopes of presenting enough evidence to issue an indictment. In the case of A.L.F. actions, a grand jury will attempt to prove a suspect's association with animal rights and then, hopefully, use testimony from various sources to prove that there is reasonable cause to believe an individual committed a crime. Articles, letters, press releases and statements all can be used against you. It is your job to prove your innocence rather than their responsibility to prove your guilt. Standard statements of support of A.L.F. actions can be seen by the usual conservative grand jurors as incriminating. All this should not intimidate you away from supporting or joining the A.L.F. - just be careful of what you say and be even more careful about what you do. My own situation may seem grim, but considering that after five Federal grand juries that lasted over four years, subpoenaed over 70 individuals and investigated six major A.L.F. raids, the fact that I was the only activist indicted and only received four and one-half years - I believe it shows that we did pretty good. And my indictment would have not been possible had it not been for preventible mistakes I made which resulted in providing the Feds with physical evidence. Stand Strong, Speak Up, Act. If you are to be a vocal A.L.F. supporter, turn the tables on interviewers or editors. When doing interviews or writing letters to the editor, refuse to acknowledge A.L.F. actions as violent or terrorist. I often respond with the question that if the media and police are so concerned with violence and terrorism, why not ask the same questions to those who operate in the light of day with human blood on their hands like the ATF, FBI, U.S. military, police and arms manufacturers. That usually shuts them up. We cannot let the FBI or anyone else intimidate us away from supporting actions which cause no harm, yet save countless lives. All that is necessary is that we educate ourselves with the intimidation tactics of our opposition and familiarize ourselves with what few rights we have left. Remember that there is nothing illegal about opposing government and police repression of our movement or any other that fights for peace and justice. The Bill of Rights guarantees our obligation to overthrow any government of our own that no longer respects the rights of its citizens. It is important that we learn the lessons that our counterparts in Britain have learned. Despite major police repression, the A.L.F. continues to be a force to be reckoned with in the U.K. All that prevents us from creating the same in the U.S. is our degree of willingness to take greater personal responsibility, overcome our fears and sacrifice a little bit of our own comfort and freedom. Just remember: whatever we go through, and I say this even as someone who must sit in prison for four years, that whatever we as First World human beings go through in courts, jails or prisons, it is little compared to what political activists in other countries endure to fight for their beliefs. It is also nothing compared to the animals whose freedom lies in our own hands. The FBI, ATF, police and corporations are the ones with blood on their hands and they try to intimidate us with harassment, injury, imprisonment or death. What is most fearful is doing nothing as our one earth and her animal children are ruthlessly exploited and destroyed. Remember that and good luck!

# Richtlijnen
# Dieren Bevrijdings Front (DBF)

*** Het bevrijden van dieren uit de handen van moorddadige sectoren en individuen.**

*** Het vernietigen van de moordwerktuigen van dieren-uitbuitende instituten.**

*** Het naar buiten brengen van de gruwelijkheden begaan door dierenmoordenaars.**

*** Het nemen van alle mogelijke voorzorgsmaatregelen om dier en mens niet in gevaar te brengen.**

*Personen die zich aan deze richtlijnen houden, en vegetarisch/veganistisch leven mogen acties uitvoeren onder de naam van het Dieren Bevrijdings Front. Acties van het DBF zijn bij de wet verboden en er kunnen zware gevangenisstraffen kleven aan het redden van dierenlevens. personen die niet sterk in hun schoenen staan wordt ten strengste afgeraden om aan acties van het DBF deel te nemen.*

<u>De informatie in deze uitgave is niet bedoeld om personen aan te zetten/of te ontmoedigen tot illegale activiteiten. Deze uitgave is slechts bedoeld voor educatieve doeleinden. De geboden informatie in deze uitgave is niet perse de mening van het DBF of de DBF-SG.</u>

**Steun de Supporters Groep van het Dieren Bevrijdings Front (DBF-SG) door abonnee te worden. Voor 16 euro of meer ontvang je vier keer per jaar ons magazine. Dieren Bevrijdings Front - Supporters Groep (DBF-SG) is een legale ondersteuningsgroep om gevangen dieren- en milieu strijders tijdens hun detentie te ondersteunen daar waar mogelijk. Een andere functie van de Supporters Groep is om de motieven van het Dieren Bevrijdings Front naar buiten te brengen. De DBF-SG is tegen alle vormen van onderdrukking en uitbuiting zowel menselijk als niet-menselijk.**

**Dieren Bevrijdings Front - Supporters Groep**
**POSTBUS 3607, 1001 AK AMSTERDAM.**
**GIRO 4901163 TNV ALF-SG**

**dbf-sg@zonnet.nl**
**dbfsg_pers@zonnet.nl**
**Tel:06-23899140**



**Uitgave van: Dieren Bevrijdings Front - Supporters Groep (DBF-SG)**