

TRK ANGEL



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ISSUE NO. 18

The Hunting Bill

by Nottingham ARC

With regard to the Hunting Bill being introduced by Michael Foster, MP for Worcester:

Some MPs have apparently not received any anti-hunting letters. Therefore they may not intend being in the House when the Bill comes up for its second reading in November. It is vital that all sympathetic MPs are present and they all vote to ban hunting. We may not get such a good chance again. The hunting fraternity will be lobbying their MPs to make their opinions felt (and they have wealth on their side). Let's hope we at least have numbers on ours.

Please write to your MP at the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1 urging them to support the Bill, and to Tony Blair (who has stated his personal support for the Bill) sharing your solidarity with him. He is going to be faced with untold pressure from the pro-hunt lobby over the coming months. The Bill is due to be heard on Friday 28th November and as some MPs like to have a 3-day weekend, it is important that they are urged to attend the House to vote.

When writing to your own MP ask her/him:

- Will you be in the House on Friday 28th November for the Anti-Hunting Bill? Stress that you expect them to be there on your behalf.
- Will you please vote for hunting to be banned. Ask for a reply.

The more letters they get, the more they will realise how important it is to the ordinary people of this country. Pass this message on to as many people as you can. We know that many activists don't value letter writing but how else can you get the message across to your MP? If the MP thinks people are not bothered about this issue, then why should he/she be, especially if they would prefer to go home for the weekend or do a spot of Christmas shopping.

**PLEASE DON'T LET THIS
IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY SLIP
THROUGH OUR FINGERS.**



Local Groups Update

Animal Rights Cambridge

74 Sturton Street, Cambridge CB1 2QA

01223 311828, Fax 01223 300318

There are two campaigning groups in Cambridge - **Animal Rights Cambridge** and **Animal Aid Cambridge**. The two groups, although having separate identities, work very closely together as well as with local hunt sabs. Recently they have been campaigning against circuses on private land (they are banned on City land) with the support of the Captive Animals Protection Society.

They have also been campaigning against Huntingdon Life Sciences and travel around the country in support of both national and local demonstrations.

One of the group's members recently spent the day at Pilgrims Slaughterhouse following an expose on Channel 4 and gave an account of the conditions to a MAFF Investigating Officer. The groups provide financial assistance to the local Wildlife Hospital (CARES) at Haddenham and supported their protest at Ely Cathedral on July 19th where the clergy are 'culling' the pigeons.

Animal Rights Campaigns

c/o 3, Winmarleigh Street, Warrington WA1 1NB

The group (formerly Animal Rights Warrington) are involved in a campaign against Proctor & Gamble and are calling for a public boycott of all their products, which include: Ariel, Bold, Daz, Fairy Liquid, Head & Shoulders, Max Factor, Oil of Ulay, Pampers, Vicks and Zest. For an information pack please send four loose 2nd class stamps to cover costs. Donations are very welcome. The group campaigns against animal abuse at all levels in a peaceful and nonviolent way.

Escape

**PO Box 2801, Brighton, Sussex BN1 3NH
0956 831613**

Escape was founded in 1996 as a non-profit educational network dedicated to the liberation of non-human species by the promotion of the vegan diet. They campaign for an ethical society, an environmentally sustainable society and a healthy society via the rejection of animal products and abuse. As Escape is run by volunteers, all money goes towards helping animals. Escape are currently involved in many peaceful campaigns including SmithKline Beecham, genetic engineering, pate de foie gras, premarin, etc. For information regarding membership; campaigns etc., please contact the address above.

Freedom

**c/o 46, Valley Drive, Branton, Doncaster,
South Yorkshire DN3 3PH**

The group was set up in 1996 and are currently small in numbers but would like to branch out and gain more members. If you are interested in joining Freedom they would be pleased to hear from you!

**Kent ACTION! Against Live Exports
PO Box 363, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3GJ
01303 253775**

In July 1995 over a million live sheep and lambs were exported through Dover. Between July and November 1996 more than half a million were also shipped abroad. Some have gone as far as Spain, Greece and Italy on journeys lasting up to 57 hours without food, rest or water. KALE campaigns peacefully for an end to all live exports, monitors the trade and reports breaches of the regulations. Of grave concern is the doubtful role played by a few members of the veterinary profession. KALE welcomes all new members (fee £2) for which you will also receive an information pack.

London Vegans

**c/o 7 Deansbrook Rd, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 9BE
General enquiries: Paul 01206 861846,
Kevin 0171 603 4325, Douglas 0973 491199,
Zena 0171 354 8256
e-mail: 100121.1166@compuserve.com
Web site: <http://members.aol.com/veganuk>**

London Vegans organise various social events, catering at fairs/meetings and information stalls throughout the London area. Regular meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month (except December) at the Millman Street Community Rooms, 50 Millman Street, London WC1. London Vegans produce an excellent mailout list on the activities taking place both in London and country-wide.

Midlands Animal Rights Coalition (MARC)

PO Box 43, Dudley DY3 3DG (01384 456682)

MARC work with other A/R and hunt sab groups in the West Midlands area and they have launched a new campaign against its local laboratories, and have produced a leaflet and factsheet on vivisection. They carry out regular leafletting sessions and protest against all types of animal abuse. MARC is very active and effective - contact them for further details.

South London Animal Action (SLAA)

PO Box 594, London SW9 6YA

SLAA are an active group who have recently affiliated to the larger London Animal Action so that campaigns can be more effectively fought and numbers can be greater. SLAA, on a local level, have been campaigning against the sale of ostrich flesh at Tesco's, urging people to write to MAFF Minister Jack Cunningham regarding the suffering of animals at livestock markets and exposing the cruelty of a Lewisham pet suppliers. If you wish to find out more about SLAA/LAA, please write for details.

Stevenage Animal Rights

**Box 6, Bowes Lyon House, St. George's Way,
Stevenage, Herts. SG1 1XY**

SAR have been campaigning against the Glaxo-Wellcome laboratories for several years - exposing the cruel experiments which take place there on dogs, rodents, marmosets, cats and other animals. The group produces a very informative newsletter which covers not only the group's activities but also contains articles, news etc. Membership of the group costs £4.50 (concessions for low paid/unwaged). Help is needed for street stalls. If you are able to help please call Ann Bunting on 01438 359424.

Vegan Information Network

PO Box 2801, Brighton BN1 3NH

Are you a vegetarian and want info/support on turning vegan? Are you vegan but don't know which products are really vegan? Do you know which vegan alcohols are cruelty-free? Are you up-to-date on animal tested / non-animal tested products? Do you need to know which charities fund animal research? The Vegan Information Network can help you with these enquires as well as questions regarding all aspects of veganism.

The VIN has a 16 page pocket-sized booklet available entitled 'Animal Tested Products & Cruelty-free Products' which clearly states which products are and are not animal tested. It's FREE! Just send a 20p stamp. The VIN is a group run by volunteers and would appreciate donations however small so they can remain a free information service. Please make cheques/PO's payable to 'Escape'. Thanks.

NATIONAL GROUPS UPDATE

Animal Liberation Front (Supporters Group)

**BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX
01203 632873**

e-mail: 100302.1616@compuserve.com

Although the ALFSG has had continuing hassle with the police they are still going strong and in need of support as much as ever. They produce an excellent quarterly magazine which contains letters from prisoners, articles etc. Membership is £2 a month or £24 a year. A wide range of merchandise is available with a discount to any SG member.

Animal Rights Coalition (ARC)

**PO Box 339, Wolverhampton WV10 7BZ
01902 711935**

e-mail: james@arcnews.demon.co.uk

web: <http://www.envirolink.org/arrs/arc/>

ARC encourages the coming together of all animal rights groups. ARC sends out lists detailing addresses of current animal abuse establishments. They urge all local animal rights groups to get in touch.

Animal Liberation Front (Press Office)

**BM 4400, London WC1N 3XX
01954 230542**

The purpose of the ALF Press Office is to explain to the media the reasons why activists are prepared to break the law to help animals. Speakers are available for meetings. All donations are gratefully received.

Campaign Against Leather & Fur (CALF)

BM 8889, London WC1N 3XX

The group's aim is to draw people's attention to the fact that leather and fur are basically the same thing - the skin of murdered animals. Leaflets are available on the fur, leather, wool and silk trades. CALF also sends out information on where to buy non-leather products and generally promotes veganism. Please send an A4 SAE to help cover costs.

The Fox Project

**The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge,
Kent TN9 1AW**

This group has saved the lives of many foxes. They take into care orphaned foxes and set them free when they are fit and well. They also produce an informative newsletter.

Hunt Saboteurs Association (HSA)

**PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX
01273 622827**

e-mail: hsa@gn.apc.org

The HSA are an invaluable organisation sabotaging hunts on a nationwide level. The head office provides legal and tactical support for local hunt sab groups and can provide speakers for talks. They produce the highly informative magazine *Howl* four times a year. Recommended.

Justice for Keith Mann Campaign (JFKM)

**c/o ICA, PO Box 1135, Downs View Road,
Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AA**

In November 1995, Keith was sentenced to an outrageous 14 years in prison, which was reduced to an equally outrageous 11 years on appeal. JFKM continues to campaign on Keith's behalf.

McLibel Support Campaign

**5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX
0171 713 1269**

This group was set up to provide support for the two London activists who were sued for libel by McDonald's. For an up-to-date report see article elsewhere in this magazine.

National Anti-Hunt Campaign (NAHC)

**PO Box 66, Stevenage, Herts., SG1 2TR
0378 307575**

On the 10th July, the NAHC delivered petitions containing 1.5 million signatures to 10 Downing Street as a protest against hunting. The group needs all the help it can get so that we finally see an end to this barbaric sport. Write for details, stickers, leaflets etc.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

*PO Box 3169, London NW1 2JF
0181 785 2707*

PETA are a very active organisation with a high media profile. They recently succeeded in deterring a Japanese drugs company from carrying out cruel experiments on beagle dogs. However, shortly afterwards, an injunction was served on PETA by Huntingdon Life Science stopping them from any form of protest against the company. PETA produce a magazine called Animal Times. Write for more details.

Shark Protection League

*BM LAPL, London WC1N 3XX
0589 173033*

The SPL was set up to expose the horrific cruelty involved in shark angling and to campaign against this sport. The group produces leaflets, factsheets, petitions and a very informative magazine.

Tail Ends

PO Box 1550, London SW4 6HP

This is a small vegan animal rescue network which needs homes for abused and abandoned animals, mainly cats and dogs. All of the money, which is desperately needed, goes towards food, vet's bills, neutering and spaying.

Vegan Prisoners Support Group

*PO Box 194, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3HD
24hr Arrest Helpline: 0181 292 8325*

VPSG is a very important organisation where vegan animal rights prisoners are concerned. They offer support for day-to-day problems, giving practical assistance and moral support where needed. They are always in need of new volunteers and any practical and financial assistance.

Vegans International

c/o 11 Guinea Street, Bristol BS1 6SX

VI produce a very informative magazine letting people know about the progress being made regarding veganism on a worldwide level.

The Vegan Society

*Donald Watson House, 7 Battle Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 7AA
01424 427393*

With increased membership the Vegan Society can spread

the vegan message far and wide, but they need your help. The Society produces a quarterly magazine and a wide range of merchandise.

Veggies

180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HU

Veggies run a catering co-operative which travels all around the country providing tasty vegan food at demos, festivals other events. They also produce a selection of posters and leaflets as well as the Animals Contact Directory (see Recommended Reading for details).

VIVA!

*12 Queen Square, Brighton BN1 3FD
01273 777688 Fax: 01273 776755*

This group are very active and have run a series of highly successful campaigns. They produce an informative magazine and run a BSE helpline which is open between 10am and 7pm.

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)

*2 Langley Lane, London SW8 1TJ
0171 793 0540*

The WSPA is involved in many issues concerning the plight of animals across the world. They run campaigns against Spanish Fiestas and the plight of bears through their Liberty campaign. They also produce a Holiday Horrors package designed to give information to people appalled by the animal suffering they see abroad.

...and finally, we are grateful to a friend at the RDS for the last contribution. We aim to be even-handed!

Research Defence Society

*58 Great Marlborough Street, London W1
0171 287 2818*

The Research Defence Society (RDS), situated in London's West End, is the body which promotes the use of animals in often cruel and horrific experiments. The RDS act as the mouthpiece for vivisectionists and the vivisection industry in general.

Should you wish to contact Dr. Mark Matfield, Director of the RDS, in person his address is:
92 Peperharrow Road, Godalming, Surrey
Tel: 01483 421575.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA

Three men have been sentenced to between 6 and 21 months imprisonment for the illegal export of cockatoos and another man received an 18 month sentence for attempting to export 53 parrot eggs. (*Traffic Bulletin, March '97*)

CASPIAN SEA

Fishing industry leaders of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakstan, Russia and Turkmenistan have signed an agreement to ban open-sea fishing for sturgeon in the Caspian Sea during 1997. The five countries have also agreed to carry out regular raids to catch poachers. (*Traffic Bulletin, March '97*)

CUBA

A new national fishing law forbids the capture of certain endangered species, such as Caribbean Manatees and Hawksbill Turtles and requires permission of the authorities for all fishing, except that done on the shore. (*Traffic Bulletin, March '97*)

EUROPE

Autoclub Europe cancelled a French foie gras farm visit after learning about the suffering of geese involved in the production of the pate. (*Animal Times, Spring '97*)

Full protection for wolves has paid dividends in Italy where numbers have increased from around 100 to 400. Wolves have crossed into France from Italy and have also spread from Poland into Germany and from Slovenia to Austria. (*Wildlife Guardian, Spring '97*)

FIJI

The Fiji Islands have banned commercial fishing of sea turtles for 3 years. This follows a one-year ban to mark international year of turtles. The government is also looking at ways of controlling the number of turtles killed for traditional ceremonies. (*Ceefax, 8/4/97*)

HOLLAND

A Dutch court has declared fishing using live worms to be cruel, in a case brought against two Belgian fishermen. (*La Voce dei Senza Voce, Spring '97*)

HONG KONG

A Hong Kong resident and 3 Chinese seamen have been sentenced to between 2 and 5 months imprisonment after being caught smuggling ivory by customs officials. (*Traffic Bulletin, March '97*)

ISRAEL

The Israeli High Court has rejected an appeal by the Mazor Monkey Breeding Farm (which supplies monkeys for vivisection) in a case brought against them by the Israeli Society for the Abolition of Vivisection and the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture. This means that the farm will not be allowed any income tax privileges and will not be entitled to any funding from the Ministry. (*Pro Animal, Feb. '97*)

Of 13 fur stores once operating in Tel-Aviv, only 7 remain, following pickets by a/r activists. (*Anonymous Newsletter, Feb. '97*)

Many places are no longer willing to accommodate private animal circuses, after a campaign of protests and letter-writing by members of the "Anonymous" a/r organization. (*Anonymous Newsletter, Feb. '97*)

ITALY

The use of animals for the purposes of begging has been banned in Florence. (*La Voce dei Senza Voce, Spring '97*)

The Italian government is to contribute 500 million lire (about £170,000) towards protection of the wolf. (*La Voce dei Senza Voce, Spring '97*)

NEW ZEALAND

Six men have been sentenced to between 6 and 22 months imprisonment for the smuggling of cockatoos from Australia. (*Traffic Bulletin, March '97*)

A local primary school reversed its decision to bring an emu from an emu farm to the school fair after Auckland Animal Action faxed a complaint and threatened to stage a protest. (*Liberate!, May/June '97*)

PERU

A law has been passed which provides for a sentence of between 2 and 4 years imprisonment for anyone who kills a dolphin. (*La Voce dei Senza Voce, Spring '97*)

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Vietnam and Laos have made an agreement to work together to protect the mountain range which separates the two countries. The area contains a high diversity of plants and animals, including many endangered species. Vietnamese scientists have also recommended the expansion of the country's Phong Nha Nature Reserve. (*Traffic Bulletin*, March '97)

USA

Despite increased coverage in fashion mags and a barrage of press releases designed to convince the world that fur is back, fur sales in the US were down in December. Evans Furs, the largest retail furrier in the nation, reported that in the 3 months ending Nov. 30th, revenues were down 12.5%. (*ARC News March '97*)

A man has been sentenced to 46 months imprisonment for conspiring to smuggle rare and endangered reptiles into the USA and Canada. The charges related to 61 Tree Boas and 4 Spider Tortoises that had been transported in a suitcase from Madagascar to Orlando airport. Another man was sentenced to 2 years jail for smuggling 144 snakes from Peru. (*Traffic Bulletin*, March '97)

Amoco has become the latest oil company to cap its open exhaust stacks, so saving countless migratory birds and bats from a fiery death. (*Animal Times*, Spring '97)

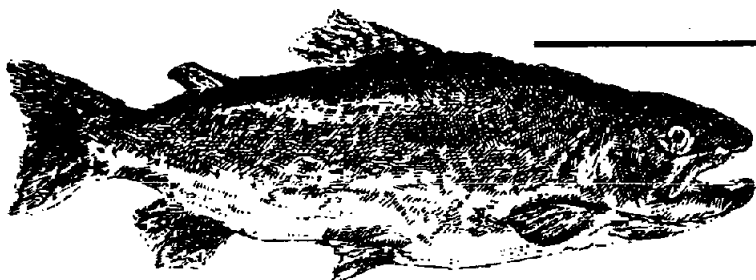
Following pressure from a/r activists, Mary Kay Cosmetics has ended its policy of awarding fur coats to top sales people. (*Animal Times*, Spring '97)

After requests from two customers, the WalMart store in Douglas, Georgia agreed to free a 15 pound lobster which had been languishing in a small tank there. The lobster was turned over to PETA and subsequently released in the Atlantic Ocean, with coverage in more than 50 newspapers. (*Animal Times*, Spring '97)

A bid to start the hunting of foxes on public land in Tampa, Florida, failed after local residents signed hundreds of petitions against it. (*Wildlife Guardian*, Spring '97)

The states of Illinois and Oklahoma have banned rodeos using horses, because of the violence to the animals involved. (*La Voce dei Senza Voce*, Spring '97)

NASA has said it will not join in research using monkeys on next year's Bion 12 space mission as risks to the animals involved are "unacceptable". (*Teletext*, 23/4/97)



PISCES NEWS

Keith Higgingbottom, editor of *Angling Times* until May 8th has been charged with incitement to kill wild birds following an article supporting the illegal killing of cormorants. Higginbottom has been charged with two offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Last December, *Angling Times* featured a front page photo of a masked gunperson with four dead cormorants at his feet. Underneath it said: "This is the picture every angler wants to see - the man, the gun and the cormorants".

Fish feel pain - official!

Details of a study funded by the British Field Sports Society and National Federation of Anglers and carried out by Pottinger (1995) are now available. A few extracts of a draft which fell into Pisces' hands follow:

'Capture by angling is always accompanied by physiological disturbances typical of activation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-interrenal axis. Capture by angling

may therefore be considered to cause physiological stress. "The stress associated with capture may be considered acute." There is a measurable level of mortality associated with hooking of fish. Most studies have not monitored survival beyond 72 hours following capture'.

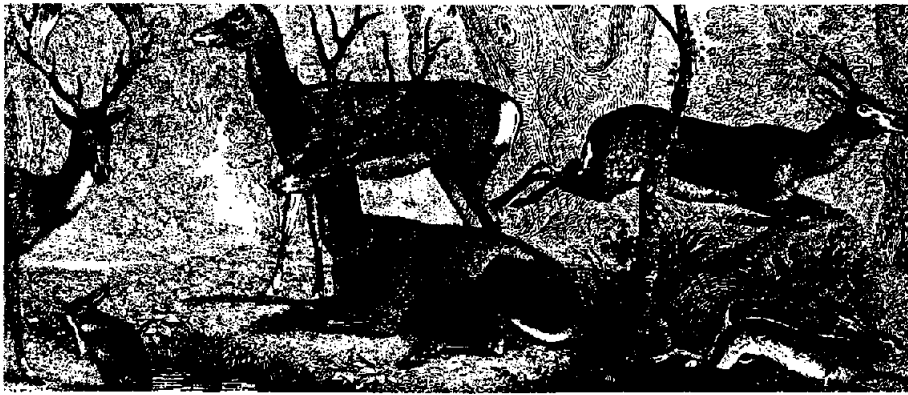
This study was kept under wraps for 2 years, until it was leaked to Pisces. The BFSS and the NFA now have the agony of trying to work out whether the infiltrator works for them or not. Studies are not needed to tell us that fish feel pain but they can be useful in persuading some people. The full draft is available in return for 2 second class stamps.

For more information concerning the campaign against fishing please contact:

**PISCES, PO BOX 90, BRISTOL BS99 1ND
(0117 9559814)**

E-Mail: pisces@demon.co.uk

World Wide Web: <http://www.envirolink.org/arrs/pisces/index.html>



Sabbing News

Hunt scum rally in London in desperate attempt to save their 'sport'

On Thursday 12 July, hunt scum from all over the UK staged a rally in Hyde Park, London, as a protest against the planned bill to ban hunting with hounds. The event was billed as a "Countryside Rally," in a pathetic attempt to pretend it wasn't really about hunting at all. Coaches were paid for to bus people in from all over the country, and many country employers gave their workers paid leave in order to attend. So much for hunt sabs being a rent-a-mob! Estimates of numbers ranged from 50,000 to 100,000.

Anglers stand with fox-hunters

The rally attracted enthusiasts of every type of bloodsport imaginable: anglers, falconers, fox-hunters, shooters, hare coursers... There was almost certainly a large contingent of badger baiters, although it's unlikely these were very vocal in defence of their bloodsport! It's true what they say about shit sticking together, and interesting to note that all the angling shops in London were advertising the rally, despite their claims that they're 'different' from fox-hunters.

Celebrity support

The rally attracted several high-profile blood junkies, keen to make known their support for ripping animals to shreds with a pack of hounds. Top scum present included: author Frederick Forsyth, actor Jeremy Irons, botanist David Bellamy, jockey Willie Carson and DJ Simon Bates. There also were top Conservative politicians including the new Tory leader William Hague and Michael Heseltine.

Injunction

Several demonstrators gathered in the morning at the offices

of the British Field Sports Society who were behind the march. They were greeted by loads of police and injunctions posted up around the area forbidding any animal rights activists to come within 250 yards of the building. The injunction was the first issued under the new Anti-Stalking Act, which was designed to protect women from being pestered by persistent stalkers. A High Court judge granted the injunction, which cost the BFSS around £5,000. Police present were unimpressed and didn't seem willing to enforce it.

Petitions handed in

Over half-a-million signatures on anti-hunt petitions were presented at 10 Downing St. to show the level of support for a ban on hunting. Bloodsports fanatics arrived shortly afterwards on an open-top bus to be greeted by a barrage of abuse. They handed in an unspecified number of pro-hunt signatures, but it can safely be assumed that it was considerably less than those against hunting.

Hunt Saboteurs

Several intrepid groups of hunt sabs and others ventured into the belly of the beast (ie. Hyde Park) to tell the scum to their faces what they thought of them. There were several scuffles and a few arrests were made. Later in the evening there was more serious fighting with casualties on both sides. One saboteur was attacked by a large group of Welsh bumpkins and suffered a broken jaw and collarbone.

National Trust bans stag hunting

After many years of arsing around and dragging their feet, the National Trust has finally bowed to the wishes of its members and the general public and banned the hunting of stags on its land. This follows a report from Patrick Bateson, Professor of Ethology (Animal Behaviour), which



concluded, surprise, surprise, that deer got extremely stressed by being hunted with hounds.

The report was commissioned by the National Trust and took two years. It found that the hunting of deer forced them to endure conditions far exceeding that which they would normally experience. It was comparable with taking an ordinary person off the street and making them run a 100 mile marathon.

However, this battle may be won, but the National Trust still allows fox-hunting on their land and issues licences to 145 hunts covering 145,600 hectares of land.

Staghunting under attack in Ireland

Hunting stags has become a very high profile issue in Northern Ireland recently. Over 70,000 signatures against it have been collected by the group Save Our Stags (SOS). Staghunting is very popular in Ireland, and the laws are slightly different to those in mainland Britain. This means that stags can be raised in captivity, taken to the hunt meet and released in front of the hounds for them to chase for up to four hours. The idea is that the stags can be recaptured alive, taken back into captivity ready to be chased all over again. This disgusting practice, known as using 'carted' stags, is carried out by the Ward Union Stag Hounds from the Republic of Ireland and the County Down Stag Hounds from the North.

For more information on the campaign against this obscenity, contact Save Our Stags at:

**S.O.S., PO Box 287, Belfast, BT6 9QS,
Northern Ireland.**

86 arrested at Mike Hill memorial demo

February 1997 was the sixth anniversary of the death of hunt saboteur Mike Hill, who was run over by Alan Summersgill of the Cheshire Beagles. There was a weekend of action in the county culminating in 86 arrests. The Saturday was spent at the Cheshire Foxhounds where about 60 sabs were arrested '...to prevent a breach of the peace'.

Several shoots were also disrupted and vast numbers of hunt scum had their vehicles damaged in a mass window-smashing session.

On the Sunday, there were demonstrations at the houses of the Masters of the Cheshire Foxhounds and the Cheshire Beagles. Again, around 20 people were arrested on ludicrous charges. Virtually everyone arrested was released without charge and civil action for damages against the police is expected to be forthcoming.

Melvyn Bragg

Melvyn Bragg, whilst not an angler, shooter or fox-hunter himself, is a vocal supporter of those inadequates who are. Known for presenting arty TV programmes like the South Bank Show, being a champagne socialist and supporting the Labour Party, Bragg has stated that foxes do not feel fear when being chased by a pack of hounds, but excitement. He is a member of the Labour Party pro-hunt lobbying group 'Leave Country Sports Alone', which is supported by no Labour MP's at all.

Melvyn has a large house in Hampstead, London, where he lives with his family. If you would like to write to him letting him know what you think of bloodsports and those who support them, he can be contacted at:

12 Hampstead Hill Gardens, London NW3

World Shore Angling Championships

In 1997 this will take place in Dover from October 11th to October 19th. This is the first time the event has been held in the UK, and hopefully the reception they will receive from us will make it the last. The sponsor is P&O, the ferry company which still carries out live exports of animals via its Irish subsidiary.

If you want to register your disgust at the people who torture marine life for fun, you can contact David Rowe of the National Federation of Sea Anglers on **01626 331330**.

SANCTUARIES



Celia Hammond Animal Trust

High Street, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 6AG
01892 783367 / 783820

Pigeon Recovery

8, Vermont Road, Sutton,
Surrey SM1 3EQ. 0181 644 7349

The sanctuary is in need of voluntary help to care for the animals in their care. Literature is available from the above address and over 100 permanent residents can be adopted either individually or in groups. Help is also desperately needed by Celia at her Lewisham Way clinic - caring for the stray cats and kittens, the odd rabbit and dog that stay permanently at the clinic until homed. Good A/R people are needed to generally tidy, clean, mop and Hoover up and feed, water, clean out and befriend / fuss over the patients and strays. The address of the clinic is:

Cat and Dog Neuter Clinic, 233 - 235, Lewisham Way,
London SE4 1UY (0181 691 2100)

Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre

East Lodge Farm, East Lane, Ince Blundell,
Liverpool L29 3EA
0151 931 1604 / Mobile: 0421 535237

The shelter welcomes voluntary live-in workers for short or long term and also needs help with essential fund-raising. They would be most grateful for offers to home rescued animals but run a strict vetting service.



Hillside Animal Sanctuary

Hall Lane, Frettenham, Norwich NR12 7LT
(01603 891237)
/ Bridge Farm, Downham Market,
Norfolk PE38 0AU

Hillside was founded to help all animals in need, particularly those who suffer in the intensive factory farming industry. They will do anything possible to make sure that the animals in their care live out their natural life spans unaffected by human greed or neglect. If you would like to adopt one of the rescued animals (only £6 minimum a year) please write for details! Hillside also have an extensive range of merchandise available.

Hounslow Animal Welfare Society

PO Box 234, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 2QG
0181 560 5443

Last year, a total of 459 creatures were taken into the society's care for re-homing, including cats, dogs, rabbits, chinchillas, guinea pigs, terrapins, rats and a hamster. The society also aided another 182 animals, mostly with routine and veterinary treatment but also by the provision of transport, occasional temporary accommodation and assistance in helping people with their animals in times of need. If possible, please donate animal food which will leave other money for essentials such as medical bills. Just £2 a month will help pay for the treatment of sick or injured animals.

There are numerous other animal sanctuaries in the British Isles (far too many to list) and if you would like to find out about these, write to:

Veggies, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW (0115 958 5666)
for a copy of the Animals Contacts Directory (97/98 Edition), price £4 (£3 unwaged).

McLIBEL VICTORY !!!!

- **McLibel verdict - McDonalds' core business practices slammed by judge**
- **McDonald's Corporation abandons its legal attempts to halt the public dissemination of *What's Wrong With McDonald's?* leaflets, and fails to get any award of costs (despite spending an estimated £10m)**
- **Campaign unstoppable**
- **Defendants plan further legal action**

McLIBEL JUDGE CONDEMNS McDONALD'S CORE BUSINESS PRACTICES

On June 19th 1997, Mr Justice Bell, in his personal verdict in the McLibel Trial, ruled that **substantial and significant parts** of the London Greenpeace Factsheet criticising McDonald's have been **proved to be true** by the evidence brought by the McLibel Defendants, Helen Steel & Dave Morris. Of the other parts of the Judgment, McDonald's won on the basis of **controversial legal and semantic interpretations** of the meaning of the *What's Wrong With McDonald's?* factsheet. These mainly regarded McDonald's claim that the factsheet meant that the company itself directly caused rainforest destruction and hunger in the third world (ignoring the factsheet's criticisms of multinationals and the food industry in general), and that people had a very real risk of cancer, heart disease and food poisoning from eating the company's food, even though the factsheet did not say this. The judge astonishingly also ruled that all the comment (bar one phrase) in the Factsheet would be **treated as statements of fact** which had to be proven by primary sources of evidence.

However, the company must be devastated that, despite all the disparity and unfairness, the Judge still found as a fact that McDonald's "exploit children" through their advertising, that they are "culpably responsible" for cruelty to animals, and that the company is anti-union and pays such low wages that it helps to depress the already low wages in the catering industry even further. The Judge also found that McDonald's food was "high in fat and saturated fat and animal products and sodium" and that "advertisements, promotions and booklets have pretended to a positive nutritional benefit which McDonald's food did not match" (ie. that the food is not nutritious and that they are therefore deceiving the public when they promote it as such). (See Verdict & Evidence briefing below.)

FINAL DEADLINE PASSES - McDonald's Abandon Legal Efforts

Thursday July 17th, the four week deadline set by Mr Justice Bell for any final legal applications by the parties in the action, passed *without McDonald's making any application for an injunction or costs*. The Corporation has thereby conceded a huge victory to campaigners by effectively *abandoning its legal attempts* to halt the public dissemination of 'What's Wrong With McDonald's?' leaflets, and has failed to get any award of costs (despite spending an estimated £10m).

JUDGE FINDS McDONALD'S ISSUED DEFAMATORY AND 'UNJUSTIFIED' STATEMENTS TO DISCREDIT THE DEFENDANTS - but rules the company had the right to self-defence!

Pre-trial publication by McDonald's of 300,000 leaflets and press releases attacking criticisms of the Corporation as 'lies' had sparked a counterclaim by the Defendants for libel. The company was **unable to bring a single piece of evidence** to substantiate its defamatory assertions that the Defendants had deliberately circulated false information. In fact, the judge found that McDonald's leaflets were '*defamatory*', '*unjustified*', contained allegations which McDonald's *knew to be untrue* and that 'part of the motive....was to *discredit the defendants*'. But, astonishingly, he ruled that this was legally permissible as McDonald's had a **right of self-defence** to protect itself since the company was under 'attack' from Helen and Dave! He ignored Defence submissions that if any legal right to self-defence existed, it should not apply to such a huge company but instead to members of the public raising valid concerns about Corporate domination of people's lives, communities and the environment.

MCDONALD'S SLAMMED IN PARLIAMENT

Jeremy Corbyn MP has sponsored two Early Day Motions which were put before Parliament on Friday 18th July. They refer to Mr Justice Bell's findings in the McLibel Trial and slam the McDonald's Corporation over its '*deceptive and exploitative business practices*', calling for '*effective sanctions*' and '*appropriate compensation*' to be paid by the company. They further condemn '*unfair and oppressive libel laws*' and call for '*urgent reform to safeguard public rights*'.

SANCTIONS

The McLibel Support Campaign believes in the public's right of self-defence, and is now calling for sanctions to be implemented against the McDonald's Corporation for its exploitation and oppression of children, customers, workers and animals. In the light of the verdict, many other public bodies are demanding action. For example:

- The **National Food Alliance** called, on July 17th, for a **ban on food advertising targeting children** (NFA - Jeanette 0171 628 2442).
- The **Farm Animal Welfare Network** is demanding **immediate legislative action** to end the cruel practices identified by the trial judge (FAWN - Clare 01484 688650).
- **Trade Unions and labour activists** are stepping up their **recruitment drive** in the catering industry and their campaign for a **guaranteed minimum wage** (TGWU - Oliver 0181 809 4977).
- **Local residents' associations** are broadening their objections to new McDonald's stores to include concerns regarding the targeting of local children and the lowering of local wage levels (eg. NOMAC, North London - David 0181 347 9857).

DAMAGES

The Judge awarded £60,000 damages to be paid by the Defendants, only half of what McDonald's had asked for, due to the number of important points the Corporation had lost. In fact, the sum has generally been considered a derisory award. Nonetheless, the Defendants cannot afford to pay and, more importantly, believe that McDonald's doesn't deserve a penny and that it is McDonald's who must be forced to pay compensation to those they have exploited.

McDonald's have repeatedly stated that they do not intend to pursue the damages.

CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO GROW

On the day of the verdict, supporters of the McLibel Defendants held a picket outside the court. On leaving the court, the Defendants joined in distributing *What's Wrong With McDonald's?* leaflets. They then took part in a triumphant and packed-out press conference, chaired by Michael Mansfield QC (who believes McLibel was the 'trial of the century') and attended by Defence witnesses including Charles Secrett (Executive Director of Friends of the Earth) and Fran Tiller (former private investigator hired by McDonald's to infiltrate London Greenpeace).

On Saturday 21st June, campaigners held an **International VICTORY DAY OF ACTION** and leafleted outside McDonald's stores around the world (including Australia, Poland, USA, Canada, Malta, Belgium, Switzerland, Ireland, Sweden, New Zealand) to demonstrate McDonald's *failure to silence its critics*. **Over 500 of the company's 750 UK stores were leafleted** in a display of solidarity with the McLibel Defendants and show of conviction that all the criticisms in the 'What's Wrong With McDonald's?' leaflets have been shown to be true. Two million of these leaflets had already been handed out in the UK since the case was brought. It has become probably the most famous and widely distributed protest leaflet in history. [Note: the original 1986 factsheet was out of print before McDonald's served writs on the Defendants in 1990]. As the Defendants were denied a jury trial, the public are in effect the wider jury and campaigners are committed to continuing to provide the public with the facts they need to *judge for themselves*. (The Corporation, after all, spends \$2 billion every year on its global advertising and propaganda.) The McLibel Support Campaign is calling for a **Global Week of Action** against the company between **Oct 11-18th**, around Oct 16th UN World Food Day / World Anti-McDonald's Day.

PR DISASTER - CORPORATION BURIES ITS HEAD

The case has been described by the media as the *biggest Corporate PR disaster in history*. The McDonald's Corporation (based in Oak Brook, Illinois) is *refusing to comment* on the verdict, falsely claiming that it is a "UK issue". This is despite the fact that they were the first and leading Plaintiff in the McLibel action! They called top US executives into the witness box to give evidence and twice flew over other executives during the trial for secret settlement meetings with Helen and Dave. The Corporation obviously knows the *damaging nature of the findings made against them* and in the evidence as a whole throughout the trial. Their refusal to comment is clearly an *admission of a humiliating defeat*. It is a *damage limitation exercise*.

DEFENDANTS ELATED - The Defendants responded to the end of the trial:

"We're elated at what we and campaigners have been able to achieve. This case was a clear attempt by McDonald's to use the English libel laws to silence their critics. By standing up to the company's bullying, we turned the tables on McDonald's and the company found that all its dirty laundry was aired in public during the trial, exposing the truth behind its glossy image. The hearings were transformed into what may have been the first ever public tribunal on the business practices and effects of a multinational Corporation."

"All the legal cards were stacked against us - oppressive, complex and unfair libel laws favouring Plaintiffs, no Legal Aid, huge imbalance of resources (a \$30 billion-a-year corporation against our combined annual income of less than £7,500), and the outrageous denial of a jury trial. Despite all of this, we won significant and substantial parts of the Judgment relating to McDonald's core business practices. And leaflets continue to be handed out in ever greater numbers. As far as we're concerned, it's a complete victory for campaigners and the public's right to criticise rich and powerful multinational corporations which dominate our lives and communities."

LEGAL AND OTHER CONTROVERSIES SET TO CONTINUE

The Defendants will be *lodging an appeal* in the British courts against the parts of the Judge's verdict which went against them and over some of the disturbing legal aspects of the case. Following the appeal, the Defendants intend to take the British government to the *European Court of Human Rights* to overturn the UK's unfair and oppressive libel laws - challenging the denial of Legal Aid and the right to a jury trial, and laws stacked in favour of Plaintiffs. They will argue that *multinational corporations should no longer be allowed to sue for libel*.

Current workers encouraged to get organised:

During the Victory Day of Action on June 21st, hundreds of McDonald's workers were handed *Do You Work For McDonald's?* leaflets urging them to stand up for their rights. In the light of the judge's findings about low pay and the anti-union attitude of the company, staff are being encouraged to contact the McLibel Support Campaign, join Trade Unions (currently recruiting in the industry), organise themselves and speak out. There is now a well used 'Workers Debating Room' on the McSpotlight Internet site. October 12th will again see a global day of action and pickets in solidarity with McDonald's workers.

Kids Against McDonald's Network:

Thousands of special *What's Wrong With Ronald McDonald?* leaflets were handed out to kids on June 21st. Following the judge's finding that McDonald's 'exploits children' it is vital that children receive alternative information to counter that put out by the company. We support children getting together and distributing leaflets to their friends and others to resist McDonald's influence. They are invited to join the Kids Against McDonald's Network.

Books and Documentaries:

The book *McLibel: Burger Culture On Trial* by John Vidal (part written by the Defendants) is to be updated to include the verdict and post-trial issues, and to be republished in paperback by Macmillan in the Autumn. The exclusive documentary *McLibel: Two World's Collide* is now being completed and will be available soon for broadcast worldwide. It will also be available on video. Full details from One Off Productions (0171 681 0832 or oops@spanner.org).

Reclaiming our World:

Multinationals and governments dominate our lives and our planet, resulting everywhere in the exploitation and oppression of people, animals and the environment. And on top of this we are expected to put up with their propaganda! We call on people to get together, talk about these important issues and to fight back. Together ordinary people can reclaim our world, currently based on the greed and power of a minority, and create a society based on strong and free communities, the sharing of precious resources and respect for all life.

.....

Please send donations
and/or requests for information to:

McLibel Support Campaign,
5 Caledonian Road,
London N1 9DX, UK.
Tel/Fax 0171 713 1269

E-mail & Listserver: dbriars@world.std.com

Internet info on McLibel, McDonald's and
multinationals at:

<http://www.McSpotlight.org/>

More McLibel...

McLIBEL VERDICT and the EVIDENCE

An analysis of the Outcome and the Judgment of the McLibel Trial

On 19th June 1997, Mr Justice Bell gave his personal verdict in the UK's longest ever libel trial, brought by McDonald's against two supporters of London Greenpeace, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, over a factsheet entitled *What's wrong with McDonald's? Everything they don't want you to know*. Publicity surrounding the award of £60,000 damages to McDonald's conveyed to some that McDonald's had won the case all bar a few minor points. In fact, most of the Judge's findings of fact back up the criticisms made in the factsheet, which is not surprising since the evidence was overwhelmingly in the Defendants' favour.

The day after the McLibel verdict, the Jonathon Aitken libel case fell apart after the former Government minister was exposed as a bare faced liar. Commentators asked how he expected to get away with lying in court, and answered by saying that when it came down to the word of a former Tory minister against that of a journalist he could safely assume, having successfully applied for trial by Judge alone, that the courts would believe his word, particularly since as a Plaintiff legally he didn't have to prove anything under UK libel laws.

The situation in McLibel is much the same. Having been denied a jury, who might not be so ready to accept the word of Corporate Executives as true, the Judge has in the main chosen to prefer the evidence of those representing the establishment or status quo. However, the Defendants thought this was likely to happen, and so from the start adopted a strategy of gaining admissions from McDonald's witnesses, so that, as the Defendants said, "it wouldn't come down to 'their word against ours' but instead to 'their word against their own' ". Helen & Dave succeeded on this in almost every area of the case, which is why the majority of findings of fact were in the Defendants' favour.

One of the things to be decided in a libel case is the meaning which a notional 'ordinary, reasonable, reader' would take from reading the leaflet. The areas in which the Defendants lost the verdict were largely because the Judge accepted McDonald's ludicrous and extreme meanings on most of the issues, which the Defendants had argued the factsheet just didn't say. For example, the Factsheet repeatedly criticised the business practices of the food industry and multinationals in general (ie. about peoples' diets, cash crops and hunger, damage to the environment etc) but the Judge insisted that the Defendants would have to prove that McDonald's *itself* was responsible.

This demonstrates just one of the disadvantages the Defendants faced having been denied a jury. A jury would

be very unlikely to adopt the extreme meanings put forward by the Plaintiffs, and in fact would more than likely have thrown the whole case out early on, viewing it as **oppressive and contrary to the public interest**.

The Judge also bizarrely and unfairly refused the Defendants' right to rely on any of the statements in the factsheet (bar one) as 'comment' or 'opinion', ruling instead that every statement was a 'fact' that would have to be proven from primary sources of evidence by the Defence. This made the task ten times as hard, at a stroke.

Although the Judge decided that McDonald's had been libelled by some of the statements in the factsheet, he also ruled that several of the most biting allegations had been proved to be true. These are particularly significant since the burden of proof was on the Defendants to legally justify the allegations by bringing extensive first-hand evidence to show that they were true. McDonald's didn't have to prove that they were false, so where the judge ruled in McDonald's favour, it doesn't necessarily mean that he thought the allegations were untrue, rather that the pair, with their limited resources and up against a wall of propaganda from McDonald's well briefed representatives in the witness box, had been unable to prove them to the satisfaction of the law.

.....

What follows are some major pieces of evidence of McDonald's business practices in the US and UK, in the main from their witnesses' own mouths and from their own documents, and the judge's

FINDINGS OF FACT,

which clearly back up all the statements in London Greenpeace leaflets

(Transcript references appear in brackets):

DIET AND ILL HEALTH

.....
• *People, the Judge concluded, 'who eat*
• *McDonald's food several times a week*
• *will take the very real risk of heart*
• *disease...*
.....

Early on in the trial, McDonald's expert witness on cancer had been asked for his view of the statement contained in the London Greenpeace factsheet: "*A diet high in fat, sugar, animal products and salt and low in fibre, vitamins and minerals is linked with cancer of the breast and bowel and heart disease*". He replied: "*If it is being directed to the public then I would say it is a very reasonable thing to say.*" (Day 22, p32, line 19). McDonald's expert witness Professor Verner Wheelock admitted that a typical McDonald's meal was high in fat, saturated fat and sodium content (Day 21, pp29-31). Paul Preston (McDonald's UK President) admitted that McDonald's products were low in fibre (Day 5, p22, line 7). This left almost the entire nutrition section of the factsheet admitted by McDonald's own witnesses. To escape this obvious own goal, McDonald's then proceeded to move the goalposts by changing their claim against the Defendants and arguing that the Defendants had to prove a more severe meaning than the one they had originally claimed over.

This enabled the Judge to find in McDonald's favour by interpreting the meaning of the leaflet in an extreme and controversial way. Despite the fact that during closing speeches the judge had agreed that the text of the leaflet in relation to nutrition was OK, he ruled that satirical cartoons and graphics which appeared on the factsheet (not in current leaflets) made the overall message stronger.

Nonetheless his verdict included the following findings of fact which confirm all the criticisms made: "At the material time of publication of the leaflet between September 1987, and September 1990, **McDonald's food was high in fat (including saturated fat) and salt (sodium) and animal products** and it has continued to be so. It was **low in fibre** at the material time of publication of the leaflet." [N.B. It is still low in fibre, but current fibre content wasn't gone into.]

"I find that various of [McDonald's] advertisements, promotions and booklets have pretended to a **positive nutritional benefit** which McDonald's food, high in fat and saturated fat and animal products and sodium, and at one time low in fibre, did not match."

People, the Judge concluded, 'who eat McDonald's food several times a week will take the **very real risk of heart disease** if they continue to do so throughout their lives,

encouraged by the Plaintiffs' advertising.' He also ruled, 'it is possible it increases the risk to some extent' of breast cancer and 'strongly possible that it increases the risk to some extent' of bowel cancer. [NB. The Corporation's Head Of Marketing had given evidence that approx 75% of all visits to their US stores were from 'heavy users' who ate there on average 3 times a week, and also that these people were likely to eat similar fast food during the rest of the week as well (Day 45 pp42-3).]

The Defendants had effectively proved even the extreme meaning decided on by the Judge, but the company had, in his view, been unjustly defamed because many of the people the factsheet was addressed to didn't eat there often enough to suffer the ill effects!

UNETHICAL ADVERTISING

.....
• *McDonald's advertising and marketing*
• *makes considerable use of susceptible*
• *young children...*
.....

The Defendants won this section of the case outright, with the Judge ruling as a fact that "[The criticism in] the leaflet to the effect that [McDonald's] **exploit children** by using them, as more susceptible subjects of advertising, to pressurise their parents into going to McDonald's is justified. It is true". He also ruled "In my judgment McDonald's advertising and marketing makes considerable use of susceptible young children to bring in custom, both their own and that of their parents who must accompany them, by pestering their parents."

The Judgement was not surprising in the light of damaging revelations of company strategy in court, such as when the corporation's official and confidential 'Operations Manual' was read out: "*Ronald loves McDonald's and McDonald's food. And so do children, because they love Ronald. Remember, children exert a phenomenal influence when it comes to restaurant selection. This means you should do everything you can to appeal to children's love for Ronald and McDonald's.*" (Day 42, p62, line 32).

The Corporation's Head Of Marketing considered that children were 'virgin ground as far as marketing is concerned' (Day 45, p56, ln 11). Furthermore, their UK Marketing chief stated that, without advertising 'you might see that the company declines completely' (Day 41, p7, ln 25). McDonald's spend over \$2 billion per year worldwide on advertising and promotions.

FOOD SAFETY

...salmonella was found on 25% of deboned chicken meat for McNuggets.
...the risk of (undercooking) is endemic in the fast food system...

The Defendants would have won this section of the case if it wasn't for the Judge's extreme and controversial interpretation of the words complained of in the Factsheet, based on the supposed 'context'. He ruled that this 'context' meant that the paragraph about general safety concerns associated with modern factory farming methods and mass meat production put the burden on the Defendants to prove that McDonald's sell products which 'expose their customers... to a serious risk of food poisoning and poisoning by the residues of antibiotic drugs, growth-promoting hormone drugs and pesticides', something which the factsheet had not said. In fact the judge agreed that the text of this section of the factsheet, taken literally, could be viewed as 'inoffensive'.

The judgment noted evidence that McDonald's own witnesses had said that 'antibiotic compounds which acted as growth promoters' were fed to chickens 'from their arrival at Sun Valley [McDonald's suppliers] until 5 days before slaughter'. That **hormonal growth promoters** such as clenbuterol 'were used in the pig industry as fairly standard practice', including at GD Bowes [McDonald's pig meat suppliers], until the E.C. banned their use in Europe in about 1990. (ie. they were in use at the time the factsheet was in circulation). That antibiotics were routinely given to cattle in U.S. feedlots as growth promoters and that **pesticide residues** were found in meat in the U.S. McDonald's International Meat Purchasing Manager had also given evidence that hormonal growth promoters are widely used in cattle rearing in the USA (Day 92 p17 line 1-17). However, the Judge decided that the Defendants had not brought sufficient evidence to prove that any of this posed a risk to consumers. This is despite widespread concern in many countries over these unnatural practices, and the fact that the EC had banned the use of hormone growth promoters in Europe because of fears over their safety.

The Judgment notes that 'the principal food poisoning organisms carried by chickens are salmonella and campylobacter'. A representative of McDonald's chicken meat supplier accepted during his evidence that campylobacter was found on 70% of raw poultry, (Day 91 p55 line51), and that salmonella was found on 25% of deboned chicken meat for McNuggets (Day 89 p64 line 59).

The defence against the presence of food poisoning organisms on meat is dependent on adequate cooking to kill the organisms. According to the Judge, **"the risk of [undercooking] is endemic in the fast food system** whatever protective measures the Plaintiffs put in place". The Judge referred to several instances where McDonald's were prosecuted for selling undercooked burgers, and stated "I have no doubt that there must be many more incidents of undercooking than prosecutions or convictions reveal". McDonald's admitted that in 1994 they were convicted for serving undercooked chicken McNuggets in Shrewsbury McDonald's which contained salmonella, and that the McNuggets, which had been served to a 3 year old girl, were declared by Local Health Officials to be 'unfit for human consumption'.

McDonald's also admitted that they were responsible for two very serious outbreaks of E.Coli 0157 food poisoning, in the USA in 1982 affecting at least 47 people, and in Preston (UK) in 1991, in which people suffered serious kidney failure. (Day 294 p17, Day 125 p10, & Day 66 p20). Although the company has raised cooking temperatures since the Preston outbreak, evidence from McDonald's own witnesses and documents revealed that the company still only instructs UK stores to cook standard beef patties for 40-44 seconds to reach an internal temperature of 70 degrees centigrade (Day 85 p52 line 31).

In deciding that the Defendants had not proved there was a serious risk of food poisoning, the Judge ignored UK Government advice contained in the Food Safety Advisory Committee report on E.Coli, 1995; *"Regardless of the technique used it is critical that the operation can consistently achieve 70 degrees centigrade for 2 minutes or equivalent in all parts of every burger"*, in order to ensure that pathogenic bacteria are killed.

LOW PAY AND HOSTILITY TO TRADE UNIONS

**(McDonald's UK) does pay its workers
low wages...
(...and) are strongly antipathetic to
any idea of unionisation**

Most of the findings of fact on the employment issue were in the Defendants' favour, but the Judge then decided that he found certain forms of exploitation acceptable and therefore in his view the company had been libelled. On conditions of employment, he ruled that "Despite the hard and sometimes noisy and hectic nature of the work, occasional long, extended shifts including late closes, inadequate and unreliable breaks during busy shifts,

instances of autocratic management, lack of third party representation in cases of grievance and occasional requests to go home early without pay for the balance of the shift if business is slack, I do not judge the Plaintiffs' conditions of work, other than pay, to be generally 'bad', for its restaurant workforce."

He did, however, judge that the practice of pressurising staff to go home if a store was quiet, without being paid for the balance of the shift "should not happen at all, and in my judgement it shows where the ultimate balance lies between saving a few pounds and interest of the individual". The evidence, he ruled, 'has disclosed unsatisfactory aspects of McDonald's working conditions'.

On pay, the Judge clearly found for the Defendants, ruling that "[McDonald's UK] does pay its workers low wages thereby helping to depress wages for workers in the catering trade in Britain". This was probably inevitable after the company was forced to produce copies of surveys they had conducted comparing their wage rates very unfavourably with other retail outlets. It was accepted by a 'Human Resources Manager' for McDonald's, that "the basic McDonald's starting rate is below the general averages for that kind of work in the country" (Day 133, p37).

Moving on to Unions, the Judge found as a fact that "[McDonald's] are strongly antipathetic to any idea of unionisation of crew in their restaurants". However, he then bizarrely ruled that the Defendants had libelled McDonald's because they had failed to prove that "McDonald's have a policy of preventing unionisation by getting rid of pro-Union workers". This is despite the evidence of McDonald's UK Vice President and former Head of Personnel Sid Nicholson that employees "would not be allowed to carry out any overt union activity on McDonald's premises" (Day 120, p5, line 27). Mr Nicholson had also said that 'to inform the Union about conditions inside the stores' would be a breach of the employee's contract (Crew Handbook), 'gross misconduct' and as such a 'summary sackable offence' (Day 120, p4). If that's not a 'policy' then we don't know what is.

RAINFORESTS & THIRD WORLD STARVATION

.....
• (The Judge) disregarded as irrelevant ...
• all the evidence of McDonald's
• responsibility for damage to tropical
• forests.
•
.....

The judgment on this section of the case hinged entirely on the extreme meaning the Judge attributed to the words in

the factsheet. It is widely accepted that the increasing consumption of hamburgers in the West has been the main cause of the huge increase in cattle raising in tropical forest countries, which is in turn a **major cause of deforestation**. (McDonald's is of course the world's single largest user and promoter of beef products.) The Factsheet had identified McDonald's as just 'one of many US Corporations' involved in and responsible for this process.

But the Judge ruled the Defendants had to prove that McDonald's *itself* had bought vast tracts of land for cattle ranching, and *itself* used lethal poisons to destroy vast areas of rainforest (which he defined so narrowly as to exclude most of the tropical forest which had been deforested to make way for beef) and that any evidence less than this was irrelevant.

He therefore disregarded as irrelevant to his judgment all the evidence of McDonald's responsibility for damage to tropical forests. This included the admission by McDonald's in their opening speech that they had used beef in Costa Rica from cattle reared on former rainforest land, some of which 'had been rainforest up to the 1960's' (Day 1, p50). The company also admitted importing Brazilian beef into the UK in the 1980's (Day 78, p21). Some of their current declared supplies to their 250 Brazilian stores emanate from areas of Goias State defined by Defence experts as former rainforest areas destroyed in the 1970's and '80s to make way for cattle ranches (Day 251, pp18-23). Charles Secrett, Executive Director of Friends of the Earth, explained that "*McDonald's Corporation, as a global supplier of beef products to mass markets, must accept some responsibility for encouraging development and land use pressures that result in the clearance of tropical forests*" (Day 240 p34).

On the subject of the eviction of small farmers and indigenous people from land, and hunger in the Third World, the factsheet clearly talked of the role of multinationals in general in the cash crop economy which forces people off their land, or forces them to grow cash crops instead of staple foods. But again the Judge ruled that the Defendants must show that McDonald's *itself* had carried out the acts. Direct evidence was given in court of land conflicts in areas which McDonald's identify as their current sources of beef in Brazil such as in Goias State (S Branford, Day 251 pp24 -26) and in Mato Grosso do Sul (F Watson, Day 238 pp12-20).

Fiona Watson of Survival International stated there were "many cases of conflict and **land theft caused by the cattle ranching industry** as a whole in Mato Grosso do Sul. The industry has undoubtedly played a significant role in the reduction in size of Indian lands, the climate of intimidation and violence that prevails in many areas and the consequent social and cultural disintegration of these peoples in Mato Grosso do Sul."

PACKAGING, RECYCLING AND LITTER

"...there is no problem with dumping lots of McDonald's waste in the ground,"

(Ed Oakley, VP McDonald's UK)

An average McDonald's store produces at least 140 pounds of waste packaging a day, excluding take-away packaging which represents around 50% of custom (Day 9, pp24-5). Including take-away packaging, this works out worldwide (x 21,000 stores) at around **1 million tons of waste packaging each year**, a phenomenal amount - and generally thrown away after less than 5 minutes use. Much evidence was heard about how both the production and disposal of packaging inevitably causes damage to the environment. Paper products lead to destruction of trees, and natural forests being replaced by monoculture plantations, dangerous chlorine compounds are used to bleach the paper. Plastic based packaging is non-biodegradable and often consists of polystyrene made using blowing agents which contribute to ozone depletion or the 'greenhouse effect'. All the witnesses extolled the virtues of recycling.

In the UK, all McDonald's packaging ends up as litter or in landfill sites (Day 61, p 33, line 47). The picture is much the same in the US (Day 9, p18, line 30). McDonald's Local Store Marketing news-sheet for May 1990 admitted *"When one considers that McDonald's each day is serving food and drink to approximately three-quarters of a million people in the UK, it does not take a genius to conclude that our packaging will be prevalent on the streets whilst littering continues."* (Day 6 p53). Ed Oakley, Vice President of McDonald's UK, admitted that the polystyrene packaging collected during a nationally-publicised UK scheme "for recycling into such things as plant pots" was in fact "dumped" (Day 59, p64). He also considered that "as long as there is room in the dumps, there is no problem with dumping lots of McDonald's waste in the ground," and even asserted it could be *"an environmental benefit to dump waste in landfill sites"* (Day 61 p29).

With a record like this, you might think it would be hard to be accused of libelling McDonald's over the issue of packaging, but due to the Judge's extremely narrow interpretation of the 'environment' section of the Factsheet, he ruled that all the evidence relating to packaging was irrelevant except for an allegation that in the late 1980's McDonald's used only a 'tiny' amount of recycled paper. Ludicrously he ruled it was a 'small but nevertheless significant proportion' and therefore the company had been libelled!

ANIMAL SUFFERING

McDonald's 'are culpably responsible for cruel practices...'

The Defendants won this section of the case outright, with the Judge ruling it was a fact that McDonald's "are culpably responsible for cruel practices in the rearing and slaughter of some of the animals which are used to produce their food". These 'cruel practices' included: 'the severe restriction of movement' of US and UK battery hens crammed into cages all their lives, and hens suffering 'osteopaenia'; the 'severe restriction of movement' for US and UK broiler chickens for some of their lives and endemic 'leg problems' caused by 'breeding for weight; 'rough handling' and 'pre-stun electric shocks suffered by broilers on the way to slaughter' and 'a proportion of chickens [used for McDonald's food] are still fully conscious when they have their throats cut'. He also found as a fact that a 'not insignificant proportion of the sows which produce pigs [for McDonald's UK] spend virtually their whole lives in dry sow stalls' where they suffer 'severe restriction of movement'.

During the case, David Walker of McKey Foods (sole hamburger supplier to McDonald's UK) had admitted that *"as a result of the meat industry, the suffering of animals is inevitable"* (Day 78 p63 line 48).

Overall the one thing the Trial and the Judgment has shown is how inappropriate it is for the legal system to be deciding what subjects are valid areas for debate. There are many different political viewpoints on each of the issues, inevitable conflicts between those who hold the power in society and those who seek to end the exploitation of people, animals and the environment in order to create a new society where people have control over their own lives and communities.

It is vital for the future of this planet and its population that these subjects are areas of free uninhibited debate and ordinary people can express their views, so the self-interested propaganda of greedy multinationals is challenged.

What the Papers Say

A Selection of Press Cuttings from the Past Few Months

Activists strike butchers' shops

THERE has been a spate of animal rights activist attacks in Auckland. Butcheries have been the main target, but it has even extended to a beekeeping concern.

In one night's attack, the windows of 12 businesses were smashed, causing damage the Animal Liberation Front estimates at \$10,000.

The front, which has admitted responsibility, describes itself as an underground group which carries out non-violent action against animal "abusers" and their property, most often butchers' shops.

Its members remain anonymous to avoid prosecution.

The group sent a letter to the *New Zealand Herald* saying it had committed more than 20 vandalism attacks on

businesses throughout Auckland.

The attacks follow a letter to Auckland butchers last July in which the front warned firms to stop trading by October 1 or face having their property vandalised.

Economic sabotage

The attacks have been aimed at butcheries, seafood outlets, a sports store and even a shop stocking beekeeping equipment and related products.

The front calls its tactic "economic sabotage" and says it has had success

around the world "in putting animal abusers out of business".

John Calvert, the owner of Calvert Butchery in Swanson, West Auckland, said lead sinkers had been slung through his window twice in 10 days, causing \$650 damage each time.

He was insured, but he had to pay a \$250 excess.

Detective Sergeant Dave Potaka said police had been monitoring the front and were concerned by an increase in its vandalism in the past couple of years.

Police hoped to clamp down on such activities before they became as serious as they had in places like Britain.

Because the ALF acted covertly, police relied on information from the public to arrest those responsible.

NEW ZEALAND NEWS, U.K. 12-3-97 A

Animal rights terrorists threaten blitz after attack on transport firm

By JONATHAN WALKER

The Birmingham Post

Animal rights activists have threatened to launch a firebomb blitz across the country following an attack on a Midlands livestock transport firm which caused more than £20,000 damage.

An Animal Liberation Front activist warned of a "new wave of anger" leading to increased violence, and police have issued an urgent warning to potential targets of terrorist violence.

The blast at a transport depot near Warwick followed a massive anti-vivisection demonstration on Saturday at the home of an Oxford scientist, in which nine people were arrested.

And police in North Yorkshire said yesterday that Conservative election candidate Miss Anne McIntosh, standing in the new Vale of York constituency, had been sent razor blades in an envelope "apparently from animal rights activists".

A second envelope stuffed with razor blades was received by another Tory candidate in the North of England.

No organisation has so far admitted responsibility for the firebomb attack at Spiers Haulage, a small family firm in Claverdon, which destroyed an HGV tractor unit.

A device attached to another vehicle went off, while fire crews were at the scene trying to put out the first blaze, causing a small explosion. No-one was hurt.

Army bomb disposal experts yesterday defused two further devices attached to vehicles at the site.

The firm's owners said yesterday their customers were mainly UK farmers and they did not transport live animals overseas.

Mrs Gillian Spiers, who helps run Spiers Haulage with her husband, brother-in-law, son and nephew, vowed yesterday that they would carry on as normal.

She said: "We have never had any problems like this before."

"It was a great shock and very upsetting," Mrs Spiers added.

A spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front said yesterday: "There is a new mood of anger

Six in court over illegal cockfight

Five youths and a 21-year-old man arrested at a cockfight spotted by an MP were conditionally discharged by Tenby magistrates yesterday after they admitted being at the illegal fight.

Nick Ainger, Labour MP for the town, told police after seeing the group huddled around two fighting birds at Pembroke Dock. Cockfighting was banned in 1835.

DAILY TELEGRAPH A
29-7-97

and determination about the way animals are treated and it will continue.

"When people see that reason is ignored, yet they see that attacks like letter bombs do have the desired effect, they are going to wonder whether it is worth going out on peaceful protests and taking the chance of being sprayed with CS gas or hit with batons or arrested — or whether it is better to sit in their front room making explosive devices and putting them in parcels."

THE POST 28-4-97 A

LAWYERS AND civil liberties campaigners have warned that a major animal rights trial which begins next month may place a gagging order on the entire UK protest movement.

Five animal rights campaigners are to be tried for conspiring to incite "persons unknown" to commit criminal damage by disseminating animal rights and Animal Liberation Front literature over a five-year period ending in January 1996. They are not charged with committing the criminal damage themselves.

It is about a decade since a case of this nature has come to court, and if Hampshire Police — who are bringing the action — are successful, it could bode ill for other activists across the political spectrum.

Tim Green, the solicitor for the defendants, said: "This is the sort of

case which used to happen quite a lot in the Seventies and Eighties, but which is fairly unusual now. If these men are convicted it would be a retrograde step and would send out all the wrong signals."

They are believed to be submitting thousands of pieces of printed material from a wide range of publications as evidence. The force declined to comment on the trial but confirmed that it was going ahead on August 26 at Portsmouth Crown Court.



BIG ISSUE 14/20 JULY

WASHINGTON: Cio Ekum — The underground group Animal Liberation Front took responsibility for the release of 4,000 mink from a nearby fur ranch Saturday.



USA TODAY 11.7.97

Animal rights mob hits hospital

MOUNTED police prevented 150 animal rights activists from storming a hospital yesterday as violent demonstrators rampaged around Oxford.

Other police in riot gear cordoned off a road as masked protesters screamed abuse outside the home of

By Fiona Barton
neuro-scientist Professor Colin Blakemore.

Elsewhere in the city 50 demonstrators charged through the covered market, targeting Boots, Sainsbury's, McDonald's and butchers' shops. Twenty miles away, near Banbury, others

attempted to break into an animal breeding centre.

Police, who made two arrests, said 400 people had been involved, divided into groups like that which attacked the Radcliffe Infirmary. Officers had expected that protesters would target the home of Professor Blakemore, who has previously

received death threats. Anti-vivisection campaigners claim he uses kittens, monkeys and hamsters for his eye research.

The neuro-scientist — who protesters may have wrongly believed worked at the Radcliffe — was attending a conference in America, but his wife was at home.

Firm firebombed as animal libbers turn up the hate

RAZOR blades were posted to a Euro MP and a haulage firm was firebombed during two days of protest by animal rights activists.

It was the second successive weekend of demonstrations — and one campaigner warned they

Daily Mail Reporter

could become increasingly violent.

The blades and a hate letter using such phrases as 'animal murderer' were in an envelope sent to Anne McIntosh, Tory MEP for Essex

North and Suffolk South, which includes the port of Brightlingsea, a focus for protests against live animal exports.

Miss McIntosh, who is also Conservative Parliamentary candidate for the Vale of York, thought she had been targeted, however, because she is a supporter of field sports. Police said the letter was posted in York on Friday. It was believed to have reached her campaign office on Saturday.

'No one was hurt opening it,' Miss McIntosh said.

Another envelope stuffed with razor blades was received by a second, unnamed Tory candidate in the North of England.

Police were also investigating a firebomb attack at Splers' haulage depot in Claverdon, Warwickshire, early yesterday.

A lorry tractor unit was destroyed by flames and bomb disposal experts defused a number of other devices. There were no injuries.

No one yesterday had claimed responsibility for either razor blades or firebombs.

Nine people were arrested during a series of anti-vivisection protests.

About 400 demonstrators gathered outside the Oxford home of neuroscientist Colin Blakemore, but he was said to be abroad.

Protesters also collected outside a research plant in Banbury, where minor damage was caused, and at Oxford University's science department.

One animal liberation campaigner warned that protests could become increasingly violent if industry and the authorities failed to take note of a 'new mood of anger and determination about the way animals are treated'.

DAILY MAIL 28.4.97 ▲

Hollywood star wins battle to save lab test puppies

The actress Kim Basinger (pictured) yesterday won a battle to save 36 beagle puppies from having bones in their legs broken to test a drug for osteoporosis in humans.

Yamanouchi, the Japanese pharmaceutical company which commissioned the experiments to be carried out in a British-owned laboratory, said last night that it had decided to halt the experiments because of "public confusion and disquiet" about the tests. Now it is going to examine if there are other ways of testing the drug.

The tests were due to be carried out in an American laboratory owned by Huntingdon Life Sciences, based in Cambridge.

Ms Basinger had offered to adopt the puppies to save them from undergoing the tests after being told about the tests by the animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) which she has supported in past animal rights campaigns.

THE TIMES 28.4.97

Protest warning

Animal rights protests may become more violent, a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front said after a weekend of confrontation. A firebomb attack caused damage at a livestock haulier in Warwickshire and nine people were arrested at demonstrations in Oxfordshire. The spokesman said there was a new mood of anger about the way animals were treated.

THE INDEPENDENT
21.6.97

MAIL ON SUNDAY 27.4.97

Violence rising, say animal protesters

By Brian Farmer
Daily Post Correspondent

AN animal liberation campaigner yesterday warned that protests could become increasingly violent if industry and the authorities failed to take note of a rising tide of concern.

The campaigner, a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, said that some activists may well decide that letter bombs and fire bombs got better and faster results than peaceful protests.

He was speaking after a firebomb attack on a livestock haulage firm in Claverdon, Warwickshire, and a massive demonstration against vivisection in and around Oxford.

In recent weeks there have been a series of animal rights protests in various parts of England.

Last weekend 250 demonstrators clashed with police at a beagle breeding kennels in Hereford. Protesters also attacked the home of the kennels' manager. More than 20 people were arrested.

On Saturday, nine people were arrested after a day of protests in Oxfordshire, where hundreds of demonstrators targeted the home of an Oxford University neuroscientist and a laboratory.

The overnight fire bomb attack at Spiers Haulage depot in Claverdon followed a similar attack at a poultry plant in Brackley, Northamptonshire earlier this year.

"There is a new mood of anger and determination about the way animals are treated and it will continue," said the campaigner, who asked to remain anonymous.

"I am not saying everyone will think like that, I am just saying that that is the risk."

DAILY POST 28.4.97

▲

Razor blades sent to country sports fan

Tory brushes off hate-mail in election fight

David Garner

A PRO-HUNTING Tory election candidate is to continue to back field sports in spite of receiving "deranged" hate mail.

She will brush off the hate-mail, believed to have been sent by animal rights extremists, and continue her campaign for a Yorkshire seat in Parliament today.

A letter containing razor blades and an abusive message was sent to the campaign headquarters of Tory candidate Anne McIntosh in the new Vale of York constituency.

Miss McIntosh, 42, was called "a murdering bastard" and an "animal murderer" in the message which was posted in York on Friday.

The attack came as animal rights activists appeared to be stepping up their campaign in the run-up to the General Election with a weekend firebomb attack on a livestock haulage firm in Claverdon, Warwickshire, and a big demonstration against vivisection in and around Oxford.

The white envelope, addressed to block capitals, was opened by Miss McIntosh's election agent Diane Clarke when it arrived at the candidate's Easingwold offices.

Miss McIntosh is also the MEP for the Essex North East Euro-seat, which in-

cludes the port of Brightlingsea - focus for animal rights campaigners protesting about the live export of animals.

Miss McIntosh said last night: "I think whoever sent this must be deranged. He or she is either a nutcase or a very determined extremist."

She did not think the hate-mail was sent because of her Brightlingsea connection. "There was never any trouble or abuse at Brightlingsea. It is more likely to be because I am in favour of field sports."

"The fox, in particular, is a pest, it is vermin and does tremendous damage to farm animals. It provides enjoyment for people to follow a hunt."

Miss McIntosh said she was concerned that any Labour move to ban hunting would have a "devastating" effect on the countryside.

"There are a lot of people in this constituency who are involved with field sports and they could lose their jobs, that would have a devastating effect on the Vale of York," she said.

Graham Robb, Conservative spokesman for Yorkshire and the North-East, said two envelopes stuffed with razor blades had been received by candidates, one in North Yorkshire and another elsewhere in the North.

North Yorkshire Police

warned potential targets of animal rights extremists to exercise care when opening post.

A spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front yesterday warned that protests could become increasingly violent if industry and the authorities failed to take note of a rising tide of concern.

He predicted that some activists could abandon peaceful protests in favour of letter bombs and fire bombs.

Last weekend 250 demonstrators clashed with police at a beagle breeding kennels in Hereford and more than 20 people were arrested.

Police arrested nine people on Saturday after a day of protests in Oxfordshire, where hundreds of demonstrators targeted the home of an Oxford University neuroscientist and a laboratory.

The spokesman claimed a new wave of concern about animal welfare had been inspired by the BSE scare, concern over live animal exports and animal liberation campaigner Barry Horne, who went on hunger strike Bullington jail, Oxfordshire, in protest at Government vivisection policies.

He compared the continuing animal liberation campaign to the campaign for women's suffrage.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack in Claverdon.

Defiant butcher vows not to quit

DEFIANT butcher Dennis Spurr says he will be sleeping in his Dorchester shop to deter vandals from smashing up his premises again.

Mr Spurr was counting the cost this week after a window in his Hardy's Arcade shop worth over £1,300 was smashed.

The Dorset Meat Company store opened to the public for the first time on Tuesday - minus a window.

Mr Spurr had arrived on Sunday morning to put the finishing touches to the shop and found the main window completely smashed in - and a boulder on the floor.

"At first I was going to pack it all in when I saw the damage," said Mr Spurr from Weymouth.

"I've done all the shopfitting myself and it has taken me three months. I've spent £30,000. I was just about to put the shutters on when this happened - it's incredible."

"I'll board up the window but I will stay here overnight for the time being."

He added: "I moved down from London four years ago to get away from all that vandalism - now look what happens."

Mr Spurr says he has not ruled out the possibility the attack was carried out by animal rights activists.

He said: "It's possible - but it could be just mindless vandals." Police are appealing for witnesses.

THE YORKSHIRE POST 21.4.97 ▲

Terrorist organisations and top criminals are starting to use the Internet to send secret messages and carry out fraud and counterfeiting, according to a new police study.

The 10-month study by the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) uncovered evidence of growing involvement of environmental extremists, and European terrorists - particularly Fascist groups - who were using the system to send messages and information about potential targets. Police are to recommend setting up Britain's first national Internet squad and a review of laws to allow detectives to intercept electronic messages.

Dr Neil Barrett, an expert on computer hacking and "information warfare", speaking yesterday at a conference into Internet crime, predicted that organisations such as the IRA and the Animal Liberation Front would soon take advantage of the technology. "It's such an obvious and logical next step, it's something we anticipate," he said. He added that terrorists of the future might use computer viruses to cripple emergency and public service rather than bombs.

Jason Bennetto

THE GUARDIAN 22.5.97 ▲

RIOT police clashed yesterday with hundreds of animal rights demonstrators who stormed a kennels compound which breeds beagles for laboratory experiments.

Police used batons, riot shields and CS gas to force back the protesters who converged on the Consort Kennel at Harewood End, near Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

▲ THE INDEPENDENT 29.5.97

MAIL ON SUNDAY 20.4.97

Arkangel 18

Freak show back as high art in animal passions

Dan Gjalster on video shock in Venice

THE outrage aroused by pickled animals faded into insignificance yesterday with the unveiling of a video installation featuring an artist engaging in acts of bestiality with animals. The piece by Russian performance artist Oleg Kulik is being shown at the Venice Biennale in a group show with three other artists.

But any attempt to bring the video installation to Britain could face problems. An RSPCA spokesperson said: "It does sound extremely obscene. Any attempt to bring it into this country would probably fall foul of the Video Recordings Act and the Sexual Offences Act."

Philip Dodd, director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, which recently exhibited a video of two pigs copulating by the Chinese artist Xu Bing, said: "A lot of what is around now has a very close proximity to the funfair, to the pleasures and freakshows of the funfair. At one time this took place in the illicit places of public pleasure. As they've been closed down it's interesting how they've returned as high art."

As to whether it qualified as art, David Lee, editor of the magazine Art Review, said: "Who can say if it's any good. The criteria are arbitrary. Which is better: Gilbert & George's technicolor turds or an artist with his head up a cow watching himself having sex with a pig?"

Oleg Kulik is no stranger to controversy. His first attempt

at this work, still photographs of himself engaged in acts of bestiality with farm animals, was unveiled in Moscow last year. He claimed it was an attempt to exorcise the feral, brutal spirit motivating contemporary Russia through the vehicle of the self. The audience thought otherwise.

His most recent work was a two-week stint as a dog in New York. The show, I Bite America And America Bites Me, involved Kulik assuming the character of a dog from the moment his plane landed in New York. He spent his visit in a cage in an art gallery, dressed only in a dog collar. The audience was encouraged to enter the cage to play with him, but were warned to wear protective clothing in case he bit them.

Kulik was arrested in three countries for biting members of the audience.

At a New York press conference, his wife, Mila Bredikhina, who filmed the bestiality, had to speak on behalf of the artist, who was too busy barking to answer questions.

"He wants to explore in his mind what it means to be an animal. He searches for basic feelings... He was also a bird and a fish. I like him as a human and as an animal."

Kulik began his artistic life making large sculptures of animals and photographing them. He spent long periods suspended in the air impersonating a bird. But his artistic highlight was his candidacy for president of Russia. He ran dressed as a bull.

New Forest deer hunt calls it a day after 1,000 years

By Charles Clover, Environment Editor

THE last hunt in Britain to pursue fallow deer announced yesterday that it is to cease hunting, ending a New Forest tradition which has lasted almost 1,000 years.

The decision by the New Forest Buckhounds comes amid rumours that ministers are about to revoke — or refuse — licences for deer hunting on Forestry Commission land. The hunt operates exclusively on the commission's ground.

The chairman, masters and committee of the Buckhounds issued a statement saying that they had decided with regret not to hunt fallow bucks in the forest this season and added that "it is unlikely that they will hunt again in the future".

The decision was the result, they said, of the increasing demands upon the forest made by the urbanisation of its fringes and millions of visitors each year.

"The New Forest is now no longer the provider of an environment suitable to hunt the wild fallow buck, thus it seems that the buckhounds will become part of the rich history of the New Forest," the statement added. "It is hoped by all their supporters that the deer will not also be resigned to history but will still flourish." The chairman

and former master, Peter Barfoot, said: "Time has caught up with us. Our committee met on Sunday and decided the hunt had come to the end of its natural life."

"We felt we should end with some dignity while we still had some. The New Forest has changed beyond recognition and there is no future hunting deer here."

Mr Barfoot said the Buckhounds were different from the three hunts which pursue red deer in the West Country. Those were based in agricultural areas where they were the only form of culling deer.

"The New Forest is not an agricultural area any more but a tourist destination. Now, even in the middle of winter and in the middle of the forest, you can be chasing a buck and come across a family on mountain bikes."

"In the minutes of the committee 20 years ago it was decided that our hunt should only have another two or three years. So we have done well to last this long. The fact is that the New Forest is now too small to support our hunt."

He denied that the hunt had had talks with the Forestry Commission or that a current commission review might have prompted the decision.

The Buckhounds were

formed in 1885 but hunting fallow deer has been a part of the New Forest since William the Conqueror designated the forest a royal hunting ground in 1079.

The Buckhounds have been a thorn in the side of the hunting fraternity because of the younger fallow buck's habit of not standing at bay but lying down when cornered by the hounds. Anti-hunting campaigners have filmed hounds escaping their huntsmen and attacking the deer before it could be put down with a gun.

The commission announced soon after the election that it would not issue licences for hunting on its land until a full review of hunting had taken place.

A spokesman said: "We have prepared advice for ministers and that is being discussed at the moment."

Anti-hunting campaigners, believe the commission may be influenced by research carried out for the National Trust which said deer hunting with hounds was cruel.

Kevin Saunders, of the League Against Cruel Sports, said he was "very pleased" by the New Forest Buckhounds' decision. "The whole thing is academic anyway as we've heard they are not going to get a licence."

△ DAILY TELEGRAPH 29-7-97

FIREBOMB CAMPAIGN THREAT TO LIBRARIES

EXCLUSIVE

By GARY JONES

THE Animal Liberation Front has threatened to bomb libraries unless they stop stocking field sports magazines.

Scotland Yard believes animal rights activists are planning a nationwide campaign of firebombing.

Alert

The extremists want to see magazines like Country Life banned.

Library staff have been told to watch out for suspicious packages sent through the mail. One

police to monitor movements of known activists.

One officer said: "You have to take these people seriously. They are skilled at making incendiary bombs."

Attack

"They haven't hesitated to use them in the past."

He added: "They pick on easy targets like libraries, although high street shops have been attacked."

△ DAILY MIRROR 27-12-96

THE GUARDIAN 14-6-97 △

△ SUNDAY MAIL 3-8-97

FORMER model Celia Hammond cheered 3,500 anti-hunt marchers with a speech at a controversial rally yesterday.

The RSPCA and other groups had asked animal lovers to stay away yesterday in case it caused confrontation.

And there were roars of approval as sitcom writer and animal rights campaigner Carla Lane told the crowds that Sir Paul McCartney and his wife, Linda, had sent messages of strong support.

The rally in Trafalgar Square followed a march through central London.

It aimed to encourage the Government to ban blood-sports after a massive turnout at the recent pro-hunt lobby in Hyde Park.

West animal rights raids

A SERIES of nationwide raids against animal rights extremists is being co-ordinated by West Mercia police using intelligence gathered at recent violent demonstrations in Herefordshire.

So far police have arrested 44 people and say the figure will double in the next two weeks as a series of multi-force operations are carried out.

Evidence is being gathered from video footage taken at recent demonstrations in the county - five weeks ago 250 animal rights extremists fought police outside the Consort beagle-breeding kennels, near Ross-on-Wye.

The same day a young mother and her two small children were terrorised in their home by so-called protestors who pelted the house with rocks and smashed windows and doors.

Yesterday Superintendent Tony Judge, head of operations in Hereford, said: "We will not tolerate protests and people involving terrorist activity."

By Adam Powell

"There are thousands of well-meaning, genuinely concerned people who are perfectly within their rights to protest, but there is a group of people, which is no bigger than 100, forcing their Fascist views on people."

"They do not have sufficient support to change the law as they want it so they resort to terrorism."

Superintendent Judge said raids would take place all over the country in the next two weeks to arrest hard-core animal rights extremists organised by the shadowy Animal Liberation Front.

Last night Robin Webb, spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, said: "The police are trying to crackdown and silence people who are trying to reveal what is going on behind closed doors in these animal establishments."

"There is a concerted attempt to stifle animal rights protests - the law fails the animals and people who are going outside the law to end lawful animal abuse see that as the ultimate liberation movement."

WESTERN DAILY PRESS 28.5.97

Landowners threaten Blair

by David Harrison
Environment Editor

THE LEADER of Britain's landowners will warn Environment Minister Michael Meacher tomorrow that the Government faces a massive campaign of 'passive resistance' if it attempts to control the countryside through legislation such as the Bill to ban foxhunting.

Four days after 100,000 country-dwellers protested in Hyde Park against the ban and other threats to rural life, Ewen Cameron, the president of the Country Landowners' Association, will tell Mr Meacher that the Government cannot run the countryside without the co-operation of people who live there. "The consequences will be extremely damaging," said Nick Way, the association's chief political adviser, who will also

attend the meeting in London. The 'sullen resistance' could take many forms, he said. Landowners could make minimal efforts to implement new laws and farmers could refuse permission for their land to be used for military training.

Landowners are concerned about planned legislation to give greater public access to the countryside. Mr Cameron will tell Mr Meacher that legislation should be dropped in favour of 'co-operation and partnership'. Mr Way said: "We don't think the Government understands how the countryside works."

The landowners will also demand reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and more government investment in rural housing, education and health care. The association believes that the Blair Government would face huge problems enforcing a foxhunting ban. Militant pro-hunters

say that they will burn forests and use tractors and horse boxes to block railways and roads. Otis Welsh hunter, Richard Williams, described Thursday's Hyde Park rally as 'the last peaceful protest'.

Anti-hunting groups say the hunters have become more aggressive and are preparing for more violence in the run-up to the foxhunting Bill's second reading in November.

Michael Foster, the MP behind the private member's Bill, has received death threats from pro-hunters. The League Against Cruel Sports, a non-violent group that monitors hunts, has hired security guards and is training members in self-defence in preparation for a wave of violence.

"They will resort to violence because they have lost the argument," said a spokesman. "The closer we get to the Bill becoming law, the more desperate the hunters will get."

Charity shops in bomb alert

GOSPORT: Part of High Street was sealed off today as police examined two suspect packages sent to cancer research charity shops.

The eastern end of the High Street was evacuated for about an hour, but was opened again when police established the contents of the two brown jiffy bags were harmless.

Police acted after a woman claiming to be from the Animal Liberation Front telephoned the Gosport office of *The News* and said one cancer research shop in the High Street had had its lock superglued and a jiffy bag had been delivered to it.

She did not specify what the bag contained but Inspector Steve Doel said: "We have to be on the safe side - especially in the light of the current campaign."

THE NEWS 7.4.97

CRUEL FARMER STARVED PIGS

A FARMER was banned from keeping animals for a year yesterday after 400 of his pigs were found dead and dying.

The pigs were desperate for food and drink, Canterbury magistrates in Kent heard. Richard Marshall, 43, admitted cruelty.

DAILY MIRROR 24.7.97

LAWYERS acting for protesters injured when police cleared an animal-rights rally have made formal complaints over the action, including the alleged indiscriminate use of the controversial CS spray.

The incident at Ross-on-Wye, near Hereford, three weeks ago, is believed to have been the first at which police have used the spray - introduced for personal protection - in a public-order situation. The police deny it was used indiscriminately and say it was for their officers' personal protection and safety.

Two demonstrators say they will sue Hereford and Worcester police for alleged assault. Others are believed to have consulted lawyers and the civil-liberties group Liberty. At least 12 demonstrators, mainly women, were affected by the spray and others claim they were hit by riot police wielding batons during the trouble at Consort Kennels which breeds beagles for vivisection.

Eyewitnesses claim officers fired the spray without warning above the heads of a crowd trying to stop a van carrying people who had been arrested.

THE OBSERVER 13.7.97

THE INDEPENDENT 4.5.97

Animal rights activists step up campaign of violence

Candidates sent razor blades and company firebombed as cruelty protests escalate

RICHARD SPENCER

RAZOR blades were posted to a prospective MP and a haulage firm was firebombed during a weekend of violence by animal rights activists.

The attacks came after about 400 protesters gathered outside the home of an Oxford University scientist said to be a supporter of vivisection.

Anne McIntosh, Conservative parliamentary candidate in the Vale of York, was sent an envelope containing razor blades and hate mail. Police said it was posted in York on Friday and it is believed to have reached her

campaign office on Saturday. A second envelope stuffed with razor blades was received by another unnamed Tory candidate in the North of England, said Graham Robb, Conservative spokesman for Yorkshire and the North-east.

Miss McIntosh is an MEP for North Essex, which includes the port of Brightlingsea, a focus for protests against live animal exports. But she thought she had been targeted because she was a supporter of field sports. "I think whoever did this must be deranged... No-one was hurt opening it but police are treating it very seriously."

She said she would not be frightened off by the hate mail and that she remained in favour of field sports. "On a free vote I would vote for them to continue. The fox in particular is a pest, it is vermin and does damage to farm animals. It provides enjoyment for people to follow a hunt. There are a lot of people in this constituency who are involved with field sports and they could lose their jobs."

News of the hate mail was released yesterday as detectives were investigating a firebomb attack at Spiers Haulage depot in Claverdon, Warwickshire.

A lorry tractor unit was

destroyed by fire early yesterday and bomb disposal experts defused a number of other devices. No-one was hurt and no-one has claimed responsibility for either attack. Earlier this year, a poultry plant at Brackley, Northamptonshire, suffered a similar firebomb attack which was said to be the work of "animal activists".

Nine people were arrested during a series of anti-vivisection protests in and around Oxford on Saturday. About 400 demonstrators had gathered outside the Oxford home of neuroscientist Colin Blakemore and said he was a supporter of animal

experiments. Prof Blakemore, who is based at Oxford University and is an expert on BSE, was not available for comment. He was said to be abroad.

Protesters also gathered outside a research plant in Banbury, where minor damage was caused, and at Oxford University's science department.

In recent weeks animal rights demonstrators have staged a series of protests in various parts of England.

Last weekend, 250 demonstrators clashed with police at a beagle breeding kennels in Hereford. There have also been

protests in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, and Norfolk.

An animal liberation campaigner warned that protests could become increasingly violent if industry and the authorities failed to take note of a rising tide of concern. The campaigner, a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, said some activists may well decide that letter bombs and firebombs got better and faster results than peaceful protests.

"There is a new mood of anger and determination about the way animals are treated and it will continue," said the campaigner.

△ THE SCOTSMAN 28-4-97

Detectives probe animal rights graffiti attack on pet shop

AN ANIMAL rights group has launched a sinister attack on a pet shop in Isleworth.

The Animal Liberation Front daubed the front of Spreo Pets in South Street with its name accompanied

by a threatening letter.

Detectives have taken the letter, a copy of which was sent to the *Times*, for finger-printing.

They have also warned Spreo Pets owner Pam Heather, 50, to be on her

guard against chemical attacks.

Bizarrely, the targeting of the shop, which has been in Isleworth 20 years, was prompted "because residents on the Ivybridge council estate buy pets there".

Mrs Heather said she was told in a threatening call, that she must stop selling pets to council tenants.

The letter, was delivered early last Friday. It says: "Our actions are a foretaste of what you can expect should you fail to heed this warning."

"We insist that you phase out the live animal side of your business, by not vetting people it is obvious that you don't give a damn as to where animals end up."

A defiant Mrs Heather

immediately vowed not to be intimidated by the threats, calling them cowardly.

She said: "I think they are cowards if they have not got the guts to come out and show themselves."

"I am expecting more trouble and I have been warned they might put chemicals on the graffiti to hurt people who rub it off but I will carry on my shop as usual."

"I think it is disgraceful they should tell me how I should run my shop and judge people just because they live on a council estate."

"A lot of people who live on the Ivybridge are very caring people and love animals."

"Some of them don't have a lot of possessions or companions and they pour affections on to their animals as a result."

"And, as far as I know, none of my customers have ever treated their pets badly and I certainly don't ill-treat animals."

Sgt Doug McLeod of Chiswick Police said: "We take this threat seriously and would appeal for anyone who can help us catch these people to get in touch with Chiswick CID."

THE TIMES 20-5-97

Pigeon reprieve

Plans to revoke the licence of Trafalgar Square's only authorised bird-seed seller have been abandoned. Westminster City Council failed to persuade the National Heritage Department to sanction removal of the birds' main food supply as a way of reducing the square's pigeon population.

NORTHERN ECHO 16-6-97 △

△ THE HAVERHILL ECHO 19-7-97

△ THE HOUNSLOW, FELTHAM AND HANWORTH TIMES 9-5-97

Arkangel 18

Drug-test animal lab faces closure after TV exposé

By Philip Johnston, Home Affairs Editor

ONE OF Britain's largest animal testing companies, with 1,600 employees, faces possible closure after a Home Office investigation into allegations of maltreatment.

Huntingdon Life Sciences has been given until the end of November to meet 16 stringent conditions if it is to be allowed to continue experiments for drug companies.

Two individuals working at the Cambridgeshire laboratory have been charged with offences under the Protection of Animals Act and the personal licence of a third technician is to be withdrawn.

Letters of admonition are to be sent to two other staff members.

The inquiry began after a Channel 4 team for a documentary broadcast in March secretly filmed Huntingdon employees kicking and hurling a beagle against a wall.

Staff were shown punching, shaking and laughing at the dogs and were unable to take blood samples properly.

Despite two visits from the Home Office Inspectorate while the programme, *It's a Dog's Life*, was being made, none of the cruelty was uncovered.

In a parliamentary answer last night, George Howarth, Home Office minister, said a detailed investigation had been conducted by the department's animals inspectorate, which viewed more than 20 hours of unbroadcast material, studied company records and interviewed past and present staff.

"Shortcomings relating to

the care, treatment and handling of animals and delegation of health checking to new staff demonstrate that the establishment was not appropriately staffed and that animals were not at all times provided with adequate care," Mr Howarth said.

It was therefore proposed to revoke the company's certificate from Nov 30.

Immediate closure would result in the destruction of thousands of animals including 1,000 dogs, 10 baboons, 200 marmosets, 450 macaques, 13,000 mice, 35,000 rats, 2,000 guinea pigs, 3,000 birds and 4,000 fish.

Animal rights groups estimated that the company had 100,000 animals on its premises, including 1,000 beagles and 700 monkeys.

Mr Howarth said revocation would shut down the company with the loss of jobs but this could be avoided.

"While the failures and admissions are extremely serious, this outcome would not necessarily be warranted," he added.

"An application for a replacement certificate could be considered if we can be assured that measures have been put in place to prevent any recurrence of the events shown in the television programme.

"Sixteen stringent conditions have been set which must be met before any new application can be considered."

Mr Howarth acknowledged that the inspectors were criticised for failing to spot the alleged maltreatment

during visits to the establishment and said there would be a review of policy.

The Inspectorate has been asked to audit all commercial dog facilities to advise on the best practice for keeping and caring for animals.

Christopher Cliffe, chief executive of Huntingdon Life Sciences, said the revocation would not necessarily close the company as only one third of the staff was involved in animal studies.

He was also confident that the company could meet the conditions set by the Home Office. "It is a very important matter which we are taking terribly seriously," he added.

The controversy has hit Huntingdon's business, with the share price falling from £1.21 in 1996 to less than 60p.

In 1993 the share price peaked at 243p.

Glaxo Wellcome and Zeneca last month stopped awarding new drug testing contracts to Huntingdon pending the outcome of the Home Office investigation.

Astra, the giant Swedish pharmaceuticals group, has already said it would no longer use Huntingdon to test drugs.

Mike Baker, chief executive of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, welcomed the Home Office action. But he added: "It raises as many questions as it answers, particularly about how they intend to make sure such scenes will never be witnessed again in a British laboratory."

"Huntingdon does not deserve to have its licence renewed."

STEVENAGE MERCURY 18.7.97 A

A SECURITY review is under way at pharmaceutical giant GlaxoWellcome, in Stevenage, after animal rights activists walked through the main gates, entered an office and accessed computer files before being found two hours later.

The campaigners barricaded themselves in an unused portable cabin while they logged in to one of the company's computers to try to obtain "evidence of animal testing".

The security breach at the Gunnels Wood Road research facility happened at around 4pm on Monday.

Police were called immediately and a helicopter using heat-seeking equipment circled the 100-acre (40.5ha) site from the air.

The two activists — Niel Hansen, a former resident of Constantine Close, Pin Green, Stevenage, and Laura Nichol — were discovered around two hours later.

Sledgehammers were used to break down the office door, as the pair had piled furniture against it, refusing to come out.

They were interviewed at Stevenage police station and bailed without charge to return on August 19.

Mr Hansen, who lives in Hemel Hempstead, vowed to continue targeting GlaxoWellcome, which he claims is the "biggest vivisection company in the world".

He recently served 18 months of a three-year prison sentence for terrorising one of its pregnant employees.

Mr Hansen told the *Mercury*: "GlaxoWellcome got quite a shock to find that their allegedly fool-proof, hi-tech security system failed. We also

came up with some useful information."

A company spokeswoman said the computer Mr Hansen and 21-year-old Miss Nichol, who lives in Tyne and Wear, tapped into was not networked and did not contain any confidential research files.

She added: "Obviously, we try to be a secure site, but we do not want it to be like Fort Knox, we have a lot of visitors every day. It's a difficult situation — there will be a review."

A police spokeswoman said four animal rights activists had entered the site, but two were found and evicted.

"The remaining two were arrested shortly before 6pm on suspicion of criminal damage," she added.

Front freed beagles

The Animal Liberation Front says it freed 15 beagles during an attack on a kennels.

The dogs were taken from Consort Kennels, Ross-on-Wye, near Hereford, on Tuesday. In a call to the Press Association, an ALF spokesman said the group carried out the attack because dogs at the kennels were used for research.

The caller also said that a man in prison on the Isle of Wight, jailed for possession of incendiary devices, was on hunger strike in protest at vivisection.

EXPRESS AND STAR 17.5.97

Beef shutdown

Two meat plants suspected of being part of an international smuggling ring shipping British beef to the Continent despite a worldwide export ban have been closed

Ban on fishing ruled out

THE new Labour Government has struck a massive blow for the future of fishing.

In an historic meeting with *Angling Times*, the Rt Hon Dr Jack Cunningham, new Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, pledged security for the sport.

Nothing to fear

And he said angling had nothing to fear from extremists calling for the sport to be banned.

Dr Cunningham, the politician ultimately responsible

EXCLUSIVE By RICHARD LEE

for shaping Government policy on animal welfare and the environment, delivered his promise in an exclusive interview at Whitehall.

He said: "There are no proposals to ban any aspect of fishing, and there is no hidden agenda."

"I see it growing in popularity and in very safe hands." And he also announced the setting up of an independent group to completely review the laws governing fishing.

"Every aspect of angling is set for a comprehensive review over the next 18 months," he said. "I see a bright future for the sport as we head towards the millennium."

ANGLING TIMES 16.7.97

THE TIMES 15.7.97

Country anger at Forestry hunt ban

by TIM REID
and GREG NEALE

THE FORESTRY Commission angered hunting enthusiasts and farmers yesterday by enforcing a ban on using its property while it conducts a "major policy review".

On the first day of the fox hunting season, the Commission refused to renew licences on its land while it decides whether to allow the practice to continue.

The Commission's decision brought an angry response from those who fear the review may result in a permanent ban on the 84 hunts that ride Commission land, which covers two and half-million acres of England, Scotland and Wales. The move follows the National Trust's ban on deer hunting on its land.

A Forestry Commission spokesman confirmed: "In effect, it is a temporary ban. We have been asked by ministers to review our position in relation to hunting."

Janet George, of the British Field Sports Society, said the move was causing considerable ill feeling with farmers whose land neighbours Commission property.

"The decision is ridiculous," she said. "The Forestry Commission don't even know which areas of their land they can or cannot legally ban hunting on."

The Farmers' Union of Wales condemned the move as "a bid to ban hunting by the back door".

Protesters from both sides of the debate gathered throughout Britain for the opening day of the fox hunting season. About 2,000 anti-hunt protesters met in Hyde Park in preparation for a march to Trafalgar Square.

The protest, organised by a fringe group of the National Anti Hunt Campaign, is to press the Government to allow time for Michael Foster's anti-hunting Bill.

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
△ 3-8-97

Shark campaign in contest demo

By Geoff Davis

ANTI-SHARK fishing protesters shouted and waved banners on Poole Quay on Saturday as anglers sailed out for an annual competition.

The event, organised by *Improve Your Sea Angling* magazine, aimed to catch tope before setting them free again.

Shark Protection League members from all over the country gathered on the Quayside at 8am to make their opposition known.

Tope are a member of the shark family and grow up to around six feet long, weighing up to 70 pounds.

Protesters were drawing attention to the cruelty of taking sharks out of water and the possibility that the fish

will die of internal injuries such as a ruptured stomach after they are set free.

They also say that many sharks will never recover and die of shock or are too weak to swim and slowly sink to the sea bed and die.

The magazine's Technical Editor, Neil MacElow, admitted that there was a possibility of the sharks dying from injuries caused by hooks.

He said that if a fish was obviously in distress after it had been hooked then it would be killed.

He said: "Fish are not made to be taken out of water and there is a

chance that they will die. That's life - I could be run over by a bus tomorrow."

A protester retorted: "I suppose Mr MacElow could be run over by a bus if he was dragged in front of it on a fishing hook."

Each tope caught on Saturday was measured before being set free, prizes were to be given out for the biggest catch.

Shark Protection League campaigns organiser, Chris Martin, said: "People are coming from all over the country for the protest."

"Shark fishing is a blood sport and sharks can die. If the event happens again next year then we will be out in boats."

DAILY ECHO 16-6-97 △

CIRCUSES with performing animals will remain outlawed from council parks and land in Ipswich.

The decision was made after claims the 21-year-old ban was illegal.

And it will come as a clear response to the Association of Circus Proprietors of Great Britain - which had been demanding a rethink on the ruling.

Sheila Baguley, chairwoman of the leisure services committee, said animal circuses were simply not in the public interest.

She said: "In view of the overwhelming public response, we are going to exercise our statutory discretion and continue the ban on animal circuses."

△ IPSWICH EVENING STAR 31-5-97

MORE than 3,500 protesters gathered in London for an anti-hunting rally yesterday amid anger over a call by the three top animal welfare groups for people to stay away, writes Rory O'Carroll.

The rally in Hyde Park failed to attract a tenth of the support of last month's country sports pro-hunting rally. The protest, timed to coincide with the start of the deer-hunting season, aimed to put pressure on the Government to allow time for an anti-hunting Bill going through the Commons. But march organisers, a fringe group of the National Anti Hunt Campaign, were criticised by the RSPCA, League Against Cruel Sports and the International Fund for Animal Welfare, which said the protest was unnecessary.

INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY 3-8-97

ANIMAL rights terrorists today threatened a new wave of bombings against firms and scientists accused of cruelty.

And campaigners have warned that the Lothian lab where Dolly the sheep was cloned would be a prime target.

Mounting concern was fuelled by Robin Webb, spokesman for the hardline Animal Liberation Front, who said new bombings could not be ruled out.

He denies ALF involvement but claimed militant terrorists, such as the Justice Department, were ready to strike.

"There is mounting anger and a determination to take action against those abusing animals," he said.

Violence

Police, who today warned any firms linked to alleged animal cruelty to take care, confirmed hardline animal rights activists could be ready to unleash a campaign of violence and are not underestimating the threat.

One source said: "Given their past record, these people can be completely

GUARDIAN WEEKLY
△ 4-6-97

△ EVENING NEWS 9-5-97



The Hunt

by David Lane

Ray, a young hunt-sab, is making his way back to his friends when he comes across a somewhat dishevelled hunter sitting in a hedge brushing himself off...

Major: "Damned horse threw me! Help me up lad. Burke's the name. Major Burke. You can call me Major."

Ray: "Hi, I'm Ray. Here, give me your hand. By the way, I'm sabbing your hunt."

Major: "Thought you might be - the orange mohican is a bit of a clue, what!"

Ray: "Anyway, your lot should be back this way later - they're following the false trail I laid! Still, when the Anti-Hunting Bill goes through all this will be a thing of the past."

Major: "Anti-Hunting Bill - Ha! Listen lad, we'll stop it - we're organised, just look how many ordinary working folk turned out for that rally in London. Tens of thousands of them!"

Ray: "And on a weekday too! My mates and I wish we could have got there - but we had to go to work."

Major: "Think yourself lucky to have a job to go to. Thousands of decent, hard-working folk will be out of work if that damnable bill becomes law."

Ray: "Are you saying that's why fox-hunting should continue - to keep people in work?"

Major: "Yes, of course. You can't just throw people on the dole; these are skilled men and women. The hunts have provided work for generations of country folk."

Ray: "So I suppose you supported the miners in their fight to keep their jobs did you? I bet you're against World Peace too - if it means that the thousands of 'ordinary, decent

folk' who make and sell missiles, poison gas, guns and bombs might lose their jobs?"

Major: "Fair point lad, times change and so must the work people do. But have you thought about this? You're an animal lover. What about the thousands of hounds that will have to be put down if you get your way? Ironical, don't you think, with your lot claiming to love animals?"

Ray: "Don't kid me that you're concerned about the hounds. Where are all the dogs that are too old to hunt, or that didn't make the grade? In rest-homes for retired foxhounds, fed and cared for by kindly country-folk? Or are they killed and sometimes even fed to the pack?"

Major: "Country ways may seem harsh to some, but it's not economic to keep hounds that are past their prime. It's Nature's way - survival of the fittest."

Ray: "Right, that's what I said - you kill them anyway! So have you considered drag-hunting? You'd need your hounds for that."

Major: "Drag-hunting! Poppycock! Hunting's not about charging across the countryside on horseback. The pleasure is in pitting my wits against a real animal. The fox is a cunning creature - a worthy adversary, and he often gets away you know!"

Ray: "Let me see if I've got this right. You take dozens of men and women on horseback and many more on foot. You combine the sum total of their wit and intelligence to pit against a small furry mammal, ...and the fox still gets away?"

Major: "No need for sarcasm my lad. The point is that the fox is unpredictable. You never know where it's going to go..."

Ray: "Right, you mean like across railway lines or through people's gardens? I heard that your hounds killed a young girl's pet rabbit last month."

Major: "Very regrettable. We wrote a letter of apology and offered to buy her a new one. But don't forget foxes kill rabbits too. And have you ever seen what a fox can do to hens if it gets into a hen-house?"

Ray: "I'm a vegan so I don't accept the need to keep hens. But perhaps those who do should protect them better."

Major: "Aha, a vegan, I thought you looked undernourished!"

Ray: "No, I'm the correct weight for my height. Are you?"

Major: "Don't be impertinent my lad!"

Ray: "Okay, so you claim that hunting is necessary because farmers find it impossible to protect their animals from foxes. Don't you think that bringing in the cavalry is a bit over the top?"

Major: "It might seem that way to a townie but..."

Ray: "Actually I live in the country!"

Major: "...as I was saying, it's traditional. Men have hunted animals for thousands of years."

Ray: "And where there were no suitable animals to hunt they were introduced weren't they?"

Major: "That is beside the point. Hunting is part of the culture of the countryside. It's our heritage! And let me tell you, the hunting fraternity preserves and protects the countryside so that you, sorry - townies, can enjoy the woods and hedgerows."

Ray: "Quite a few points there! First, a democratically elected government should

protect the woods and hedgerows, they're too important to entrust to farmers and hunters. And while we're on about democracy, can I remind you that the great majority of the British people want hunting banned?"

Major: "Stuff and nonsense I say! What right do the majority have to impose their will on the minority?"

Ray: "*(That's what I used to wonder when people kept voting in the Tories.)* So you're not a democrat then? But anyway, you talked about tradition... I saw in the paper that some men were convicted recently for organising illegal dog-fights..."

Major: "We agree there! Disgusting so-called sport. Absolutely right to ban it I say."

Ray: "...but they argued that dog-fighting dates back to before Roman times - they said it was 'traditional'. Of course lots of 'traditional' bloodsports have been banned: cock-fighting, bull-baiting, badger-baiting... just because something is traditional doesn't mean it must never end. And I've thought of something else. You don't need much money to get involved in dog-fighting and the rest - unlike foxhunting!"

Major: "Ah, I knew class would come into this sooner or later. All you antis really want to do is have a go at the 'upper classes'. That's why you attack fur shops but not leather shops. That's why we don't hear much about angling! Let me tell you, my young envious friend, our hunt includes people from all walks of life - you don't have to be rich to ride with the hounds!"

Ray: "Really? And I thought horses were quite expensive to buy and look after, but yes, you could be right about leather and fishing - at least with some people I know. Anyway, we're getting off the point. I just wondered whether people who support foxhunting tend to have a bit more power and influence than your average citizen. Have you got friends in high places Major?"

Major: "One or two perhaps. But let me remind you,

it's you and the rest of the great unwashed who kill far more foxes than we do - roaring up and down the roads in your clapped-out Escorts!"

Ray: "At least I haven't got bits of bush sticking out of my hair. But let's not get personal shall we? You're absolutely right. Far more foxes are killed on the roads than are killed by hunts. So can we explore the logic of your argument a moment? Let's see, it's okay to deliberately kill a fox because so many are killed by accident or negligence anyway..."

Major: "You've got it..."

Ray: "...so logically, I could deliberately kill a person on the grounds that many more people are killed on the road than are murdered. I imagine the Justice Department might be interested in your reasoning!"

Major: "Steady on lad! I can't imagine any department of justice condoning murder..."

Ray: "Sorry Major, just a joke!"

Major: "Yes, well, I will agree that perhaps it wasn't the best argument I could have used."

Ray: "Come on then Major, be honest, admit it - you go hunting because you like to see animals torn to pieces. You love being in at the kill."

Major: "No! Absolutely not. I resent your suggestion that I am a cruel and heartless person. I love animals; I've got two dogs and a cat of my own and I treat them just like part of the family. No, the reason I ride with the hunt is just that - I love to ride. I enjoy the thrill of galloping across the countryside, trotting through woodland, and jumping hedges..."

Ray: "So I see - is that your horse coming back now?"

Major: "...Oh yes, thanks, but as I was saying, I really only go hunting for the ride."

Ray: "Now we're going round in circles. Didn't

you say before that the pleasure of hunting isn't about charging across the countryside on a horse?"

Major: "Well I try to be present at the end, but I can assure you I take no pleasure at all in seeing the quarry dispatched."

Ray: "Dispatched? You mean like sent by post?"

Major: "No, I mean 'killed'. I'm sorry my boy, I must remember to use simple words."

Ray: "Please don't patronise me. I merely have an antipathy to a euphemism masquerading as the actuality of the deed. Or to put it simply - why don't you just call a spade a spade. Oh yes, shall we discuss spades?..."

Major: "Oh no, we have none of that digging-out business on our hunt - most improper. If Reynard goes to earth we leave him be. We're sportsmen, not 'blood-junkies' as you like to call us."

Ray: "Actually I prefer 'hunt scum'. So you're saying that there are no 'terrier men' associated with your hunt?"

Major: "Well, if you mean those scruffy fellows with the little dogs..."

Ray: "Yes, and spades."

Major: "Well, I don't really have anything to do with their sort. They're not gentlemen, if you get my meaning. I'll admit I've heard what they get up to - not my cup of tea at all you know. If you lot want to ban something, why don't you start with that!"

Ray: "Another working class pastime bites the dust! Just a minute, I can hear the hounds. It sounds as if the hunt (*scum*) have been outwitted again and are heading for home. I'd better not hang around - I value my skull too much! But before I go let's see if I can now understand why fox-hunting is so important to you..."

...It's not to provide employment - you agree that jobs must change with the times.

...It's not to avoid killing off the hounds - you admit they're expendable.

...It's not just about charging across the countryside on a horse - you want to pit your wits against the cunning fox.

...But because the fox is unpredictable, sometimes you end up killing some other animal - and you find that most regrettable.

...You agree that hunting is an inefficient method of killing foxes - so that's not it either.

...It can't be because hunting is traditional - since you abhor bloodsports which were once traditional but are now illegal.

...You don't really believe you're the self-appointed guardians of the countryside or

that the British people would let you tear up woodland and hedgerows in an act of spite.

...You accept the flaw in your argument when you say it's okay to kill foxes because lots are being killed on the roads.

...You even have contempt for some of your followers - the parasitic terrier men for instance - although you claim hunting is not a class issue.

It really only leaves ONE thing doesn't it?

The one thing that is never, ever said. To admit it would allow others to see the real you - the base, contemptible you. But come on, it's just you and me - I won't tell a soul. Tell me Major, why DO you enjoy hunting so much?"

Major:

"I like killing things."

Pagan Animal Rights

Pagan Animal Rights (PAR), a national organisation set up in 1983, supports any nonviolent campaign to:

- a) end all forms of animal abuse;
- b) conserve the earth's wildlife and natural habitats; and
- c) promote a non-harming lifestyle and ethical diet.

PAR believes that the support of the above objectives is synonymous with the sincere and active worship of the Goddess and the God of Beautiful Compassion, by whatever Names they are known; the Lady and Lord of Planet Earth and all her creatures, believing that the earth is the body of the Goddess and the God we honour.

PAR's objectives are, firstly, to raise the issue of animal rights within the so-called 'new age' pagan community, as there are still many pagans who see no connection between animal rights and their faith.

Secondly, PAR seeks to promote the idea of what might be called an 'animal rights spirituality'. This entails:

- 1) The development of positive thinking towards the

problems of animal abuse and habitat destruction, believing that such an attitude, expressed either ritually or in guided meditation, helps people campaign for animals and environment more effectively and nonviolently; and also that Thought itself can affect the consciousness of others, especially decision-makers; and

2) The promotion of the idea that personal and collective moral action follows from the adoption of certain religious assumptions and a certain world-view; that religion is not a weekend pastime or mind-game but involves the encouragement of the adoption of an ethos which will pervade one's everyday attitudes and actions, eventually changing society's values and thus affecting the culture in which one lives.

In support of these objectives, PAR produces a newsletter: £5 for 4 issues a year (£5 overseas - Sterling bank notes only please); £1 sample. PAR also has a network of active supporters.

PAGAN ANIMAL RIGHTS
Mr. Dominic Hodson (Editor)
Flat 5, 56 Park Road, Swanage,
Dorset BH19 2AE



Vegan Society News



Vegan Eco-Village

Thanks to the generosity of 'Vegan' readers, Plants For a Future's proposed Vegan Eco-Village (the first of its kind in the UK) is about to become a reality! An 83-acre site in North Devon has been found and the initial purchase price raised. Contracts have been exchanged and it is anticipated that the first wave of inhabitants will move on to the land in the early autumn. With the assistance of a team of permaculture architects, and the welcome support of the local Chief Planning Officer, it looks as though the villagers will be able to erect a range of structures - including cob, straw bale and underground houses.

PFF's Ken Fern adds:

"Whilst there are probably enough people now for the initial move on to the new site, we will probably be looking for more people committed to the vegan cause from next year. We are also looking for people who can help us along the way, either financially or by making working visits to the site when there will be tree planting, home building and other activities."

For more information on the project, write to:

**Ken Fern, Eco-Village Project, Plants For a Future,
The Field, Penpol, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0NG.**

Vegan Babies Wanted!

Breast-feeding vegan mums and parents feeding their infants soya-based infant formula are needed by researchers investigating the role of plant oestrogens in infants' diets. The Vegan Society is encouraging parents to participate; it is believed plant oestrogens (high in soya) may offer protection against certain diseases - eg breast cancer - later in life. However, more evidence is required! If you have an

infant between 0-18 months contact: Colette Kelly, Hugh Sinclair Unit of Human Nutrition, Food Science & Technology Dept., University of Reading, PO Box 226, RG6 6AP (0118 9875123 x 7771).

New Web Site

The Vegan Society now has its very own World Wide Web site; <http://www.vegansociety.co>. Although still in its early stages, the plan is to provide site visitors with: information on joining the Society and ordering merchandise, a complete list of Trade Mark users, the full range of information sheets, and Local Contacts' details.

Vegecat and Vegekit

A supplement which is added to recipes (supplied) to provide complete meals for vegan cats is available and also one for kittens up to 12 months and lactating queens. Both come in 6 week supply tubs and cost £8.25 each.

Leaflets

A selection of leaflets are available including; Leather, The Dairy Industry, Health and the Environment. They cost £1.75 - 100, £5.95 - 500, £10.50 - 1000, £19.25 - 2,000. (Prices include p&p).

Membership

Individual £17; Unwaged Individual £11; Under 18 years of age £9; Family/joint (must reside at the same address) £23; Unwaged Family/joint (same as above) £15; Life £275. Eire & overseas should add £5.00.

(see Groups section for address & phone number)



The Vegan Prisoners Supporters Group (VPSG)

VPSG was set up in April 1994 initially to aid two vegan animal rights prisoners to obtain their rights to be recognised as ethical vegans whilst being detained in prison. The aim was to help them obtain suitable vegan food and toiletries. The two prisoners were Angie Hamp and Keith Mann who at that time were both having considerable difficulties. They were both trying to sort out their problems through the normal channels but it was soon recognised that help was required from outside and that an organisation needed to be established to help specifically with their health and welfare.

It wasn't long before we were being approached by other vegan animal rights prisoners and it was then decided that the work could only naturally expand as the number of prisoners of conscience kept rising. We then faced the reality that such an organisation was needed indefinitely and not just for the short term that was originally intended and so it was decided not to disband!

At that time VPSG had little knowledge of how the prison system actually worked but while the prisoners did their best internally we struggled to find our way through the reams of manuals on prison care to try to find the relevant guidelines on the care of vegans. Eventually we found a few lines at the back of one of the manuals and in another just one line and that was all there was!! We then decided to submit our own guidelines on the care of vegans and so got to work on trying to compile proper guidelines and to campaign to get them accepted by the Home Office. They were accepted in May 1996 and finally put in place in July 1996. This had taken almost 18 months of hard work.

The prisoners now have access to our VPSG Helpline seven days a week which most take advantage of at one time or another when urgent help is needed. Some prisons remain harder to deal with than others but the experience we gain in tackling difficult authorities only enables us to be more effective with future requests and obviously the guidelines are now there for our reference.

In our experience, prisoners only get so far when pursuing the ordinary internal complaint route, and it is usually when the Governor of a prison is contacted directly by us with either a call, fax or letter that the complaint is taken seriously enough to warrant action.

VPSG are also working on the vegan principal as a whole by regularly contacting the Home Office to discuss various issues on equality implementations and we are, at the moment, campaigning to have a policy introduced regarding direct access to vegan toiletries which would then be taken up by all prisons and ultimately benefit all vegan prisoners.

This would hopefully mean that a supply of suitable toiletries would be kept available at a central source so that they could be drawn upon whenever the need arose by different establishments.

At the moment we are also campaigning for free vegan toiletries to be made available to all vegan prisoners. At the present time ordinary prisoners are being supplied theirs free of charge, whilst vegan prisoners are having to pay for theirs out of their own private cash. We believe this to be a clear discrimination of ethics.

VPSG still exists entirely upon donations for its running costs - all the work is done by volunteers so no salaries are paid. It goes without saying that the amount of work we can do for each prisoner is limited to the funds we have available.

For further information or a copy of our Autumn newsletter please send a stamped addressed A5 envelope to:

VPSG
PO BOX 194, ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX EN1 3HD
(with a small donation to cover costs if at all possible)

Animal Rescue Directory

This is an invaluable little book to have, particularly when on holiday. It is compiled by Tracy L'Epine and the profits are donated to British animal charities. It lists over 800 animal rescue centres for wildlife, domestic and farm animals in the UK, besides over 50 National and International animal welfare and conservation organisations, plus hints on keeping pets and helping animals worldwide.

The rescue centres are listed alphabetically by county, so if on holiday you see an injured animal, locate the nearest town which helps the right animals (every centre gives its phone number) and ask for advice and address.

All this information is obtainable at the modest price of £2.95 (96/97 price) from:

Hand to Paw,
North Cottage, Great Hayes,
Headley Common Rd.,
Headley, Surrey KT18 6NE
(Fax: 01372 375302 Tel: 01831 619847)

The Shark Protection League: a Brief History

by Chris Martin

The Shark Protection League was formed mainly in response to the lack of direct action being carried out to protect marine life and the marine environment. The background of all those originally involved in the SPL was one of animal rights, hunt sabbing and direct action campaigning and this influenced the way we decided to proceed.

For almost 10 years I had been aware that shark fishing was carried out in Looe, Cornwall and early in 1994 a group of us visited Looe and spoke to shark anglers, concealing our real purpose. What we discovered was horrific, every year sharks were caught, clubbed to death and hung up outside the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain. Often pregnant animals were caught and killed since their heavier weight ensured a higher chance of obtaining a record weight for the fisherman.

September 1994 saw the formation of the Shark Protection League and our first action against the International Shark Angling Festival. We held a land-based demo as well as a water-borne action. We received excellent press coverage. A BBC documentary film was made about our protest. The following year, 1995, saw us there again but by then the 'festival' had lost some of its former spark as the sponsors had pulled out. We talked to the shark club and they decided to meet all the original demands that we had laid down including the banning of live-baiting, no tagging of sharks and judging the competition by the length of the shark measured whilst still in the water not by its weight. The organisers of the event also made a rule that no shark would be killed during the festival. The campaign against the International Shark Angling Festival has been halted but we would like to make it clear that all those involved with the SPL oppose any form of shark angling.

At the outset the SPL had decided on a course of direct action against those who abused the marine environment. We became aware of the trade in shark's fins for the Chinese delicacy Shark's Fin Soup; therefore 1995 saw us hold the first ever protest in China Town. Sadly, despite the fact that none of the larger marine environmental groups, who were notified of the event in plenty of time, saw fit to attend, a large number of our supporters marched through China Town ensuring that our anger at the shark's fin trade was brought to the attention of all. A similar event was held in December 1995 but as yet no conclusion to this campaign is in sight.

As and when we hear of abuse we act. Holland and Barrett were intent on selling the cartilage of sharks (unproven cancer preventative) but we launched a campaign and they withdrew the product from their shelves. Smaller distributors of shark cartilage and shark liver oil are being contacted

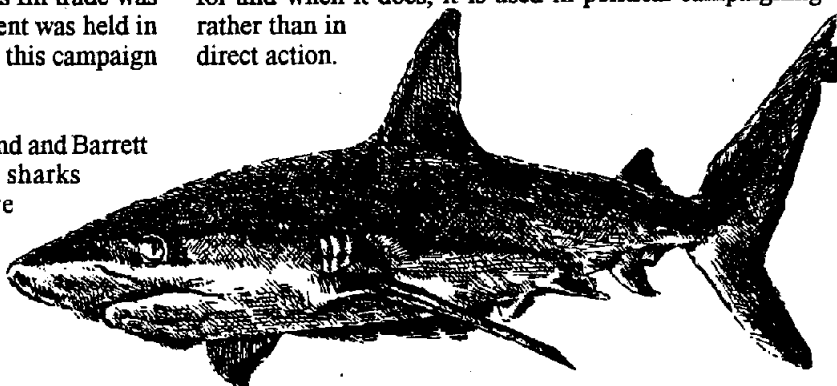
as and when we hear about them (we encourage our membership to be vigilant and to let us know as soon as anything untoward catches their eye).

Our Action Reports feature all our victories and include information about campaigns as well as including articles from like-minded groups and individuals. Every Action Report contains the 'Proud to be Shark Killers' page where we feature those involved in the killing of marine life. We feel that it is important not to shy away from those responsible for the slaughter. Our reports are available (1-5) free for a 55p SAE. We decided from the outset that these Action Reports should look professional and yet be entertaining and informative.

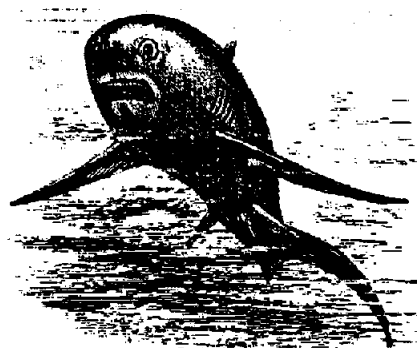
Other campaign victories include: Tammy Girl (teenage girl clothes shop) who were threatened with a boycott campaign for selling shark tooth pendants; and Playhouse video stores (owned by WH Smith) who were selling shark angling videos. Waitrose plc and ASDA supermarkets were found to be selling shark steaks. These companies are still being contacted. After meeting with the Sea Life Centres it was decided to launch a campaign against them because all that they are interested in is profit. Although the centres talk of conservation and education they pander to the general public's preconceptions. They also admitted to us that they buy sharks caught by local anglers.

Our latest demonstration in June this year was against a Tope angling day organised by Improve Your Sea Angling magazine. We had no support on the sea but local groups and also 'Pisces' helped to make our feelings known to those involved in the sport. The anglers themselves admitted to the press that the sharks caught would likely die from injuries sustained. Contact us for a report - our latest Action Update tells all about the event.

Despite our successes, the future of the Shark Protection League is in doubt. The reasons are numerous. From what I have seen, the battle to save marine life is in many cases lost. The national marine conservation groups and animal welfare/environmental organisations are raking in their profits on the back of this slaughter. We know that in some cases the money raised never reaches those it was intended for and when it does, it is used in political campaigning rather than in direct action.



We also feel that the SPL has achieved its original aim which was to campaign against and expose the horrific sport of shark angling. To stage successful direct action campaigns with any hope of having an effect on the shark's fin trade would take millions of pounds. This we do not have and those individuals who have that kind of money don't give a damn about the marine environment. In the end I believe the SPL has shown a way forward and that we have learnt many lessons along the way. However sadly, despite our high aims and hopes for our organisation, the human race seems intent on a path of greed, destruction and the slaughter of all marine creatures until there is nothing left to kill.



A final decision on the future of the Shark Protection League will be taken in the Spring of 1998.

The BFSS Injunction

On the 10th of July, the day when tens of thousands of pro-hunt supporters assembled in Hyde Park for a rally, a number of anti-hunt protesters made their way to the headquarters of the British Fields Sports Society situated at 367, Kennington Road, London SE11. Upon their arrival they were made aware of an injunction which the BFSS had taken out against one named individual and several groups regarding the proposed demonstration. A copy of this injunction, which was fixed to trees and lamp posts in a 250 yard radius of the BFSS headquarters, has been passed on to Arkangel magazine and is reproduced below:

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE QUEENS DIVISION

THE BRITISH FIELD SPORTS SOCIETY (Plaintiff)
and

- 1) John Curtin
- 2) League Against Cruel Sports
- 3) Hunt Saboteurs Association
- 4) Animal Liberation Front
- 5) Animal Defence League
- 6) People for Animal Liberation (Defendants)

- d) From coming or remaining within 250 yards of the Plaintiff's offices which are situated at The Old Town Hall, 367 Kennington Road, London SE11 4PT until after the trial of this action or further Order.

3. At the trial herein, the Plaintiffs will seek an Order that any person who is acting in concert with any of the organisations referred to in Schedule 3 to the Order dated 9th July or who is holding himself out to be an animal rights activist shall be bound by the term of the said Order. (Section 3. Protection from Harassment Act 1997)

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANTS:

1. This order prohibits you from doing the acts set out in this Order.
2. If you disobey this Order you may be found guilty of Contempt of Court and may be sent to prison or fined or your assets may be seized.

IT IS ORDERED that until midnight on Thursday 10th July 1997

- a) That the Defendants be restrained and an injunction is hereby granted restraining the Defendants whether by himself, his servants or agents or any of them, or otherwise how so ever from:
- b) Assaulting, molesting, harassing, threatening, pestering or otherwise interfering with the Plaintiff their servants or agents, employees or lawful visitors by doing acts to cause them harm whether directly or indirectly;
- c) Making any communication to the Plaintiff, their servants or agents, employees or lawful visitors whether in writing or orally, whether by telephone or otherwise how so ever save that they may send written communications to the Plaintiff's solicitors;

SCHEDULE 3

- 1) Animal Agenda
- 2) Animal Aid
- 3) Animal Concern Today
- 4) Animal Cruelty Investigation Unit
- 5) Animal Cruelty Defence League
- 6) Animal Right Militia
- 7) Animal Welfare Awareness Project
- 8) People for Animal Liberation
- 9) People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
- 10) Political Animal Lobby
- 11) Protesters, The
- 12) Respect for Animals

Had the BFSS known that only 14 protesters were actually going to turn up (judging by the barriers, the police were obviously expecting a lot more) it seems unlikely they would have gone to so much trouble and expense. In the event, the police decided to let the demonstrators protest regardless of the injunction although however, they did take advantage of their opportunity to take numerous photographs and video footage of the action.

Another Question of Violence

by Barry Horne

In the last issue of Arkangel (No 17) there was an article entitled 'A question of violence', written by Rabbix. The article condemned the use of violence by Animal Liberation activists. This is an issue that has been aired many times in the past, and many arguments have been made against the use of violence. Fine, I've no problem with that, everybody is entitled to their own opinion as long as they argue in a sensible way. What I do have a problem with though, is when people try and force their views on the rest of us by telling us what we 'must' do, or not do, as the case may be. Especially when those views are speciest and, to put it kindly, claptrap.

Rabbix says that he has rethought his views on violence and says that he is now opposed to it. I'll let you into a little secret Rabbix, the animals are also opposed to violence, that is, the extreme and brutal violence used against them every day. So when do the animals get their say in all this big debate on 'violence by our side'? I wonder. According to Rabbix, never. The phrases used by Rabbix and others who have argued against the use of violence by our side is always 'I am opposed to it' or 'I feel it is wrong'. Great! Let's forget all about creating a non-speciest world then. Let's just concentrate on imposing our feelings and views on animals

instead! Sounds ridiculous? Of course it is. Being an Animal Liberation activist means always putting the feelings and needs of the animals first. It means never ever refusing to help the animals just because we don't feel the tactics used are correct or because we don't personally like some things. To impose our personal feelings on the animals and the struggle for their freedom is speciest and nothing else.

But let's leave aside the fact that condemning alleged Animal Liberation violence is speciest. Let's look at this whole argument of violence from another angle. For a start, I have a big problem in actually pinning down this violence by animal libbers. I mean, where is it? Violence inflicted on animals is self-evident. Violence used against animals is extreme violence. So huge and all-encompassing that I would have to walk around with my eyes and ears closed and my brain shut down to miss it. Every day, millions of animals suffer and die in factory farming. Millions are abused, tortured and murdered in vivisection labs and millions are beaten, abused and broken for the pleasure and use of animal abusers. But violence by animal libbers? I have to rack my brains to think of anything that could reasonably be called violent, and yet, Rabbix condemns

these few and far between acts of violence as though they were some kind of massive problem. I find that very strange. Methinks that Rabbix has been reading the 'popular' press, those who condemn any compassion for the animals as 'violent extremism'.

It's well known that in the 25 or more years that direct action has been carried out against animal abuse, no human has been killed by animal liberation activity. Not even any animal abusers. In that same period, God knows how many animals have died. I don't know the figure and I don't want to. The figure would be so unbelievably high that I'm not sure I could handle that sort of knowledge, and yet, Rabbix wastes his time, and ours, by condemning Animal Liberation 'violence'. Very strange, step out from your sheltered existence Rabbix, come and join us in the real world. But be prepared to be shocked, it's not very fluffy out there.

In his article, Rabbix draws forth three examples of violence. One of these is the Unabomber. Not sure what they're doing

"...violence by animal libbers? I have to rack my brains to think of anything that could reasonably be called violent"

in there, they are not animal liberation so we can dismiss that straight away. The issue in question is animal liberation violence. The other two examples are animal liberation

and I have certainly got something to say about them. The first one is the use of letter bombs by the Justice Department. I wonder if it's ever occurred to anyone, Rabbix included, how easy it would have been for the Justice Department to send letter bombs designed to kill? The fact that some of these letter bombs certainly did go off, and only slight injuries were caused, should tell us something I would hope. Despite the appalling crimes of the animal abusers who received those letter bombs, their lives were not taken, and that can only be because, unlike the animal abusers, animal liberation people are not cold blooded killers. Animal liberation people care, and that is shown time and time again by the actions carried out for the animals. The recipients of those letter bombs were animal murderers grown rich on the dead bodies of the animals they have so casually killed. The hands that opened those letter bombs were hands that dripped with the blood of our murdered animal brethren. By comparison, the hands of the Justice Department are clean, untainted by the violence and indifference of a society which permits animal murder to be approved of and rewarded. Remember this in future Rabbix, when you so readily criticise those who fight for a better world.

Rabbix then goes on to pass judgement on an alleged incident on the Mike Hill commemoration day in Cheshire in February. This was the alleged attack on a 'blood junkie scum' (your words Rabbix, not mine) by the Hunt Retribution Squad. Again we have to ask ourselves, why was the criticism levelled against animal liberation activists, in this case the HRS, and not those whose hands truly are bloodstained? Anyone with any experience of hunt sabbing surely join with me in my outrage that one of our own people has the audacity to criticise hunt sabs in this way. Since the early days of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, violence has been consistently and brutally handed out to hunt sabs the length and breadth of the country. Hunt sabs have been attacked, beaten, severely injured and even murdered by these 'blood junkie scum' that make up the hunts. The alleged HRS action criticised by Rabbix, occurred on a day of action to commemorate a hunt sab who was murdered by the hunt for God's sake. Where are your words for Mike Hill, Rabbix? I don't see them in your article. What I do see in your article is condemnation of people who, week in and week out, risk violence and serious injury from bloodthirsty and violent hunt scum. And why do they risk all this every week? Because they care, Rabbix. They believe the animals have a right to live and they are prepared to run the gauntlet of hunt violence for that belief. Rabbix, your words ring very hollow my friend. To criticise in this way dishonours us all as we remember those who have died at the hands of hunt violence.

A few years back, I was involved in the running of an animal rights prisoners support group. This group never had a problem with alleged use of violence by activists, because we had a very clear policy on this. In effect, we looked beyond the action itself and analysed the reasons for the action. If an action was carried out with the intention of helping the animals and trying to end their suffering and death, then we always supported it. That was because, as far as the group was concerned, the animals were all that mattered. Our own personal feelings and thoughts were exactly that - personal, and of course our personal opinions come second to animal liberation. The animals' well-being and liberation is of utmost importance to anyone who believes in animal liberation, so we supported all activity and refused to criticise anything that we personally didn't agree with. If the animals are all that matter, then it becomes impossible for any tactics used to be wrong. Some people have stated that we 'must win in the right way'. In fact, no matter what tactics are used, we can only ever win in the right way if the animals are freed.

Can I just finish off by saying that I personally do not advocate the use of violence. Likewise, I do not advocate the use of nonviolence or pacifism. What I do believe is this, each and everyone of us must do what we feel is right.

"...I have only one problem with violence and that is the extreme violence of animal abuse"

If a person believes in animal liberation, then they must fight for it in whatever way they believe is right, and not be criticised by others for that. To criticise someone who has carried out an action for animal liberation is to criticise their beliefs. No matter which way that criticism is argued,

it still amounts to a criticism of someone's beliefs, and that cannot be right. If an action is carried out with the intention of helping the animals, then that action should always be above criticism. Otherwise, what the

hell are we really fighting for and how do we hope to achieve it, when all we care about is fighting the war according to our own personal beliefs and not for the ultimate liberation of us all?

Speaking personally, I have only one problem with violence and that is the extreme violence of animal abuse.

Barry Horne, currently on remand in Bristol Prison, resumed his hunger strike at midnight August 11th, because he believes the Government has reneged on pre-election promises regarding animal experimentation. Barry called off his hunger strike in February after 35 days without food, following promises by the Labour Party, then in opposition. Among the promises were a ban on cosmetic and weapons testing, a stricter inspection procedure, a review of the 1986 Scientific Procedures (Animals) Act and a Royal Commission to examine the validity of the claim that animal experiments for medical reasons are necessary.

Despite much correspondence since Labour's victory on May 1st, the Labour Government has persistently refused to implement a single one of these promises, nor even to say when any action would be taken in the future.

Barry now demands a commitment from the Government to withdraw all Home Office licenses to experiment on animals, within an agreed time period.

Please write encouraging letters of support to Barry. His contact address is as follows:

**Barry Horne,
VC 2141, HMP Bristol,
Cambridge Road, Horfield,
Bristol BS7 8PS.**

Beyond Ethics

by Gianni Tamino

If by progress one intends an 'advancement towards better forms in the field of knowledge, social relations, customs, means of life' (Zingarelli Dictionary), the use of genetic manipulations of living organisms is not only incompatible with ethics but it definitely runs contrary to the concept of 'scientific progress'. In this connection, the Scientific Antivivisection Committee denounces that area of the research world which, after having mistakenly adopted animals as an experimental model for man, after having ascertained the impossibility of transferring to man experiments conducted on animals as well as the impossibility of transferring to man experiments conducted on animals as well as the impossibility of using animal parts as 'spare parts' for us, keeps postponing the expiry date of a mortgage it is not able to pay and creates 'transgenic' beings (into which human genetic material has been transferred) to surmount our immunological barriers, obstinately ignoring:

- 1) The new scientific knowledge that goes beyond any kind of short-sighted and mechanistic logic applied so far and shows the multiplicity of relations existing between the parts of an organism in addition to those that exist between this organism and its environment.
- 2) The danger of transferring viruses from one species to another resulting in the spreading of new and unforeseeable viral epidemics such as AIDS which was, as many now sustain, produced by the mutation of the SIV virus transmitted by monkeys to man.
- 3) The undoubtable disruption of ecosystems due to the spreading in nature of genetic information not subjected to the close examination of natural selection.
- 4) The physical and moral consequences on individuals

subjected to xeno-transplants deriving from the elimination of the natural barriers which exist between species.

Moreover, the Scientific Antivivisection Committee denies the rightfulness of a 'science' considered as a repository of fundamental 'scientific truths' on which only technicians (or scientists) are authorized to voice their views, while the only certainty of science is that it is not the repository of 'truth' and that any knowledge must be subjected to continuous verifications, of a 'science' that wants us to believe that decisions are made in the name of general welfare by the receivers of the above mentioned 'truths' of a 'science' that political power refers to as if it had been entrusted with decisions to be made for mankind, of a 'science' which is an instrument in the hands of industries that are inclined to favour their own profits rather than human health.

Considering that its only purpose is progress and human health, the Scientific Antivivisection Committee opposes any manipulation both on the human and animal germinal line and believes that one should evaluate with the greatest care the hypothesis of interfering with the somatic line for the purpose of transplanting human tissues and cells to solve man's genetic diseases (or animal tissue and cells to solve genetic diseases of animals of the same species).

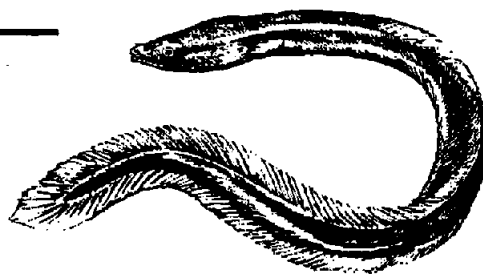
For information regarding the medical fraudulence of vivisection, please contact:

**British Anti-Vivisection Association (BAVA),
PO Box 82, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1YF and/or
Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine
(DLRM), 104b Weston Park, London N8 9PP
(0181 340 9813, Fax 0181 342 9878).**

A Cook on the Wild Side

The Shellfish Network is asking readers to write letters of complaint to Channel Four Television and the Broadcasting Standards Commission following a cookery programme where clivers were fried alive.

Somebody from the programme stated: "You just want to get the little ***** dead as quickly as possible ... it's rather disconcerting having them wriggling all over the pan."

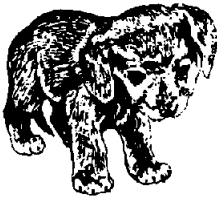


The addresses to write to are as follows:

**Channel Four Television,
124 Horseferry Road, London SE1P 2TX.
Broadcasting Standards Commission,
7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS.**

**THE SHELLFISH NETWORK, SPRINGSIDE, FOREST ROAD, EAST HORLEY,
LEATHERHEAD, SURREY KT24 5AZ (Tel/Fax 01483 282995)**

Arkangel 18



Homelessness and Pets

By Noel Molland



If you've ever wandered around the main sites where homeless people congregate you'll inevitably see some dogs. The fact is many homeless people have pets. These pets can offer vital companionship. Yet for many people having a companion animal can create problems. Quite simply, when seeking accommodation, most people are given the choice of giving up their pet, or remaining homeless. To the overwhelming majority that is not a choice, so they remain homeless. A study cited in 'Psychology Today' (number 77. 'Dilemmas associated with rehousing homeless people who have pets', by Singer R, Hart L, and Zasloff R) showed that when asked, 93% of men and 96% of women who were homeless with pets said 'they would never live without their animals'.

The names of the following people have been changed to protect their identities, but these are the stories of two people who are homeless and have pets.

Gus and Heather

In 1993 Gus had just finished a day's begging on the streets of London where he had earned £37. As he wandered along Holloway Road he heard a six-week-old puppy crying. The owner wanted £30 for the pup. Despite only having £37 he bought the dog, which he named Heather.

Gus and Heather are now inseparable. Gus will happily tell anyone that Heather is 'much happier and freer than a dog that lives in a house. She's out all of the time and I take her into the country whenever I can'. Despite being in need himself, Gus very often spends all the money he earns begging on Heather.

Although Gus would like to find a safer environment than the streets of Camden, Gus insists that he'll spend time on the streets so Heather can be free.

Sarah and Sky

Unlike Gus, who acquired his animal companion while living on the streets, Sarah became homeless with her pet. When visiting Wales, Sarah rescued a five-week-old puppy from some people who were drowning them in a stream. She named him Sky and they initially lived in a flat in Brighton. However Sarah lost the flat after she became mixed up with heroin and the police raided her flat. By the age of 20, Sarah was on the streets of London.

Having a dog on the streets has been tough for Sarah. One day-centre told Sarah that 'We can get you somewhere if

you get rid of the dog'. For Sarah that wasn't an option so she stayed on the streets, sharing her life with Sky.

People like Sarah and Gus, like the majority of the people living rough on the streets, would rather remain homeless than give up their pets. Yet sadly the majority of hostels and shelters refuse access to their properties for people who have pets. There are a few homeless charities, such as the Simon Community, who do welcome people who have pets. In fact the Simon Community has a policy to never separate people from their animal companions. But charities, like the Simon Community, that welcome homeless people and their pets are few and far between. Even if people can get into somewhere like the Simon Community, when the homeless person leaves the charity they then find that many landlords will refuse to have pets in their properties. In the 'Pets and Housing Rights Campaign and Support Group Bulletin (June 1994)' L. Dove wrote: 'I have known a lady fighting her housing trust in court for the right to keep her dog... I know people who have been homeless and squatted in order to stay with their companion animals'.

What can we do to help?

People who are good and care for their animals should be allowed to keep them. It is totally wrong that hostels, and private landlords can discriminate against homeless people because they have pets. In other countries, including Greece and Monaco, the right to keep a pet is protected by law. This is not the case in Britain. The following suggestions of what people can do to help homeless people with their pets were made by the Pets and Housing Rights Campaign and Support Group (cited in 'Animal Care number 1'):

- Campaign to have the law changed, so a person's right to keep their pet is protected by law. You can do this by writing to your MP and the Housing Minister.
- Raise awareness of this issue by writing to newspapers and magazines. Or, if you are a member of a group that produces a magazine, feel free to reproduce this article.
- Contact the Canine Defence League and ask them about their HOPE project (Homeless People with Pets). The NCDL is one of the main animal welfare charities campaigning for the rights of homeless people with pets. The address is NCDL, 17 Wakeley Street, London EC1V 7LT.

If you would like more information about the work of the Simon Community, please contact us at:

PO Box 1187, London NW5 4HW (0171 485 6639)

Bid to Ban Snaring

The West Sussex Badger Protection Group has launched an anti-snaring petition following several cruel snaring incidents in the area. The petition has been taken up nationally with the assistance of the National Federation of Badger Groups, and both the RSPCA and League Against Cruel Sports have offered their support.

Fox hunters currently argue that if hunting were banned many foxes would suffer a worse fate such as being snared. In reality many thousands of foxes are already killed in snares, and the British Field Sports Society endorse their use. The hunters therefore have no argument as almost all of them are members of the BFSS! Most snares are set by gamekeepers around their release pens. Only free-running snares are legal as the self-locking type were banned in 1981. However, when an animal twists and writhes to escape, free-running snares can become self locking, and snares can be bought legally as 'dual purpose' and then a simple modification makes them self-locking.

The WSBPG has recently had two incidents with dual purpose snares set as self locking: in one case the keeper only received a police caution, and in the other self-locking snares were found after a road casualty badger was discovered with a snare around its middle. Despite the evidence, the farmer simply denied setting them and no action was taken. However, it has been a series of tragic incidents involving badgers on the Goodwood Estate, near Chichester, West Sussex, which has been the launching pad for the national petition. In 1993 a Goodwood gamekeeper was fined £400 for shooting a snared badger and another keeper

and two men were jailed for digging out and stabbing badgers to death.

Then in 1996 a badger was found dead on the estate having been strangled by a snare attached to a wooden pole. The pole had been dragged for some distance before snagging on a fence. At post-mortem a year old snaring injury was found on the badger which had healed, but not before fracturing the breast bone. The veterinary surgeon concluded the badger had 'suffered considerably' both in its strangulation and during its earlier snaring.

Following a local petition Goodwood Estate owner, Lord March wrote to his six shooting and three farming tenants requesting them to no longer set snares on the grounds of their 'indiscriminate nature'. A local success is good news, but we now need national action. Roger Gale MP has promised to hand over the petition to parliament - so all we need is your help!

If you can help collect signatures for the anti-snaring petition, please contact Paul Fitt: 01243 530542, or write to: 14 Tamar Way, Tangmere, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 6FG.



Huntingdon Campaign

The Countryside Undercover TV documentary 'It's a dog's life' was screened on March 26th, revealing the brutal reality of animal experimentation. The programme provoked public outrage and a hard hitting campaign. The undercover film showed how, during the testing of fungicides and diagnostic chemicals on young beagle dogs at Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) laboratories, 'non-compliant' animals were violently shaken, punched and shouted at. Puppies yelped as technicians pushed needles again and again into their skins, searching for the too-small veins.

Bedding for the dogs was virtually non-existent. There was evidence of careless and faulty data entry, and although Home Office inspectors visited the establishment more than once while the undercover investigator was on site, they failed even to look in on the dogs.

Anyone wishing to join the campaign against HLS should contact:

*Animal Aid,
The Old Chapel, Bradford Street, Tonbridge,
Kent TN9 1AW
(01732 364546, Fax 01732 366533)*

*The Animal Rights Coalition (ARC)
who supply information regarding HLS.*

The address of Huntingdon Research Centre (should anyone wish to write a letter of protest) is:

*Wooley Road, Alconbury, Huntingdon,
Cambs. PE18 6HS
(01480 890500).*

To a 'Nation of Animal Lovers'

by Carol

What does she care at Christmas
once the turkey's plucked and
dressed?

Family bickering for the
wishbone, desire for the breast.

The racetracks packed with
punters, willing nags to win.

Fall at jump, the knacker's yard,
innards in a tin.

Does daddy frown on leghold traps
or white pups for the slaughter?

Ha! evidently not, buying fur to
spoil his daughter.

No love lost for soaring wings and
freedom in the sky.

He'll get a gun, with lethal shot,
and cause game birds to die.

Fiestas with mad, spineless mobs,
blood sacrifice all day.

Sneers and shrugs, their cold
response, their God says it's okay.

Educate at the circus, tell them all
they need to know?

No! animal tricks is why they
queue, their children want to go.

There's barbaric ugly coursing,
with supporters oh so keen!

Mangled hares plus shiny cups are
worth its bloody screams.

On building sites the men don't
care how pig arrives on plate,

Their start of day is fry ups - for
sows a farrowing crate.

Muzzled bears, ungainly dance,
their despair provokes no pity,

Beaten and chained they're driven
mad, trade's good for the city.

Why can't they reach for dolphins
at one with oceans law?

They can you know, to attach the
mines, so gentleness meets war.

The proverbial 'great white hunter'
sees mules with vertical stripes.

A zebra rug for someone's wall,
filling up his rifle sight.

Try and explain to natives when
polishing up the shells,

It's a savage trade in trinkets, for
turtles a pure hell.

Investors don't waste ostrich,
feathers, skin or feet,

The oldest bird on this planet? No,
a slice of low fat meat.

Are people too cold blooded, could
they slit the reptiles skin?

Try asking them, when they buy
shoes, of death to walk home in.

What will they do about the labs,
full of sadistic minds at play?

Nothing much, 'white coats' know
best, these atrocities will help one
day.

What beliefs have chinless
wonders, bloodying faces at the
hunt?

Well, not one for conservation,
that's their feeble PR stunt.

Explain to us why gorillas are
hacked to death in hate?

Is it so brainless bastards can own
a paperweight?

Are rhinos unimportant,
aphrodisiacs for the paw

Being hunted to extinction, the
poachers are the whores.

Vile, guttural voices swearing,
enjoying whales harpooned to bits,

The flensing deck runs thick with
gore, a filthy pirate ship.

Is the stalker's foremost mission to
blast the life from stags?

Blindness to its beauty, steaming,
hacked up corpse in bag.

What response of cultured perverts
when gnawing on green flesh?

'Like chicken actually, darlings',
severed frogs legs really fresh.

Accomplices to murder, point to
tanks and choose their dinners

Whisk from sight, boil to death,
fresh lobsters are the sinners.

What cowards twirl in silks and
cape to enrage the blinded bulls?

Thrusts the sharpened blade in
neck, adoration from the stalls.

What spurs on hired killers to set
traps where tigers roam?

A pole thrust through its rectum,
so they can sell the bone.

And what of lumbering elephants
when they come into sight?

Man glory's in his power, which
makes ivory tusks his right.

He captures, trains and torments,
he hunts the bird of prey,

That proud bird has life no more,
for man controls his day.

And look rabbits, there's plenty, so
let's make a coat or pie,

Let the Ministry test their
chemicals, so many ways to die.

Crippled legs, de-feathered skin,
and sores that cannot heal,

Man's scrambled brain invented
this, conveyer eggs for meals.

So when offered limbs of children,
would flesh eat as drool and wink?

No, only at legs of baby lamb
adored with sprigs of mint.

Wrench calf from cow on wobbly
legs and export it off for veal,

Churns of milk, plus pallid flesh -
an agricultural deal.

Shove food down funnels into
beaks, pained bodies round and
gross,

Wait for livers to swell and burst,
spread vital organs onto toast.

Enter, rape his forest, strip the
Orang-Utan from kin,

Touted in pet markets, a tourist
makes a child of him.

Rope wild horse and break its will,
shackle cows and brand their
flesh,

Macho cowboys show no strength,
weak traditions of the West.

In filth and squalor lies the bitch,
a clapped out breeding body,

Not worth a damn on puppy
farms, cruel money making hobby.

Pensioners cages waiting empty,
as in tubes while birds are stuffed,

Whilst enjoying smuggling
profits, gasping, jewel bright
bodies crushed.

But daily from this garbage heap,
animals see a chink of light,

Desire to help the innocents, a
need to ease their plight.

Fighting hate and apathy, people
join to make a stand

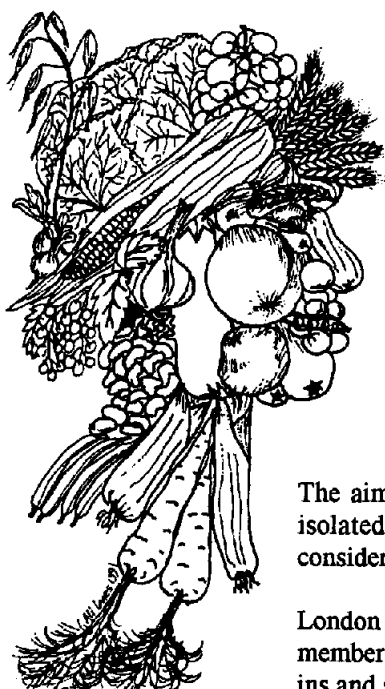
For all the different species, they
offer out their hand

Compassion and gut feeling to
liberate from pain,

Neither done for greedy profits,
nor for any personal gain.

For once freed, the suffering
creature looks up and meets your
eyes,

It's the only thing that matters, the
most important prize.



Gay Vegetarians & Vegans

GVV are a friendly informal national group of women and men, formed in 1979.

Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals of all ages are welcome. Topics covered by the group include Health issues, Human Diet & Living, Animal Rights, Ecology and Third World issues.

The aims of GVV are to provide a friendship network especially for those who are isolated, and to give encouragement and information to gay people who are considering becoming vegetarian/vegan.

London members have a monthly Drop-In (with good access for disabled members). They hope to encourage members elsewhere to set up local drop-ins and socials.

There is no fixed membership fee, just an SAE for the national friendship listings. Personal ads in the listings are free. GVV produce an occasional newsletter, 'The Green Queen', and welcome new writers for this - letters, articles, news, fiction and poetry welcome.



For more information, send an SAE/tape to: GV BM Box 5700, London WC1N 3XX

VEGETARIAN & VEGAN GAY & BISEXUAL MEN

Vegetarian & Vegan Gay & Bisexual Men is a group which hopes to work together with GV in the near future.

It is a new, informal social group for gay and bisexual men who are, or would like to be, vegetarian or vegan.

They meet on the last Sunday of the month (at least) at gay & gay-friendly vegetarian and vegan cafes in London, and have other regular social events. The group is aimed at men but women are very welcome to join in.

For further information please call **SUN** on: 0171 733 0697

The Brown Dog Affair

A 120 page non-fiction paperback, 'The Brown Dog Affair', chronicles the story of the brown dog memorial, an extraordinary statue-cum-drinking fountain that provoked nationwide controversy in Edwardian Britain.

A deliberately provocative monument erected in Battersea to the memory of a dog killed by animal experiments at London University, it was adopted as an anti-establishment emblem by a radical coalition of suffragettes, trade unionists and members of the labour movement. It caused disorder on the streets of the capital and led to the

celebrated 'brown dog riots' of 1907. After five years of notoriety - much of that time with a 24 hour police guard - the brown dog was destroyed. With the advent of the First World War, it was quickly forgotten until a new monument was erected more than 70 years later.

Peter Mason's book looks at the early anti-vivisectionist roots of the monument, traces its turbulent history, and assesses its significance as a rallying point for radical and liberal activists at the beginning of this century.

'The Brown Dog Affair' is available, price £5.50 inc p&p, from:

**Two Sevens, 30 Wynter Street,
London SW11 2TZ (0181 874 2617).**

Cheques payable to Two Sevens.

Ethical Wares

"...a cruelty-free lifestyle doesn't start and end with what's on your plate..."

Ethical Wares was set up in 1990 by a vegan walker who felt he was getting a raw deal when it came to buying footwear for his favourite pastime. When an Italian manufacturer came up with a high-class synthetic walking boot for him to try, he was so impressed that he wanted to share the benefits with other vegans.

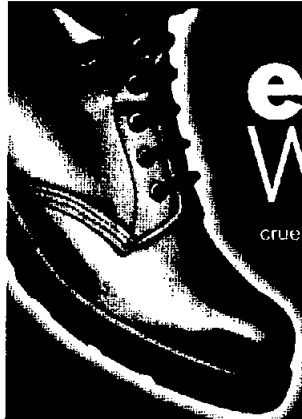
When he emigrated to America in 1993, Mike and Christine Newman, vegans for fourteen years, took over the company, since when it has expanded and is now offering over twenty different styles of footwear plus belts and non-woollen socks and jackets.

The bottom line, they say, is that vegans who want to embrace more than just dietary principles can only do so if alternatives are there to be had - and not just 'second-best' alternatives. So it's gratifying that nowadays even non-vegan walking magazines give rave reviews of the Ethical Wares boots, and EW footwear and clothing has been featured on national television and newspapers. Mike and Chris recall with amusement the American customer who visited their stand at a Christmas Without Cruelty exhibition but who walked away in disgust, refusing to believe the shoes and boots were non-leather, despite assuring her they carried the Vegan Society trademark!

But they strongly believe that living a cruelty-free lifestyle doesn't start and end with what's on your plate or on your back. That's why they have a policy of refusing to trade with countries that put human rights low on their agenda, places like China and Indonesia. They contend that exploitation of human beings is every bit as unacceptable as that of animals, as is the careless disregard of our environment. "The trees that were sacrificed at Newbury and Manchester should be part of every vegan's circle of compassion too," they say, "Harm to a part is harm to the whole."

Ethical Wares is proud to work with a number of animal organisations and to be associated with CALF and Arkangel. When they were based in Essex, Mike and Chris regularly took part in the Brightlingsea demonstrations, an experience which they maintain would have stiffened the resolve of any wavering veggies to come over to the vegan camp.

As for the future? Ethical Wares will continue to promote veganism by selling good quality products that hold their own alongside animal-based alternatives so that eventually the gleeful challenge, "Ah, but what about your shoes?", will be a thing of the past. Leather? Who needs it?



**ethical
WARES**

cruelty-free footwear and clothing

a stunning range of outdoor and leisureware combining the finest synthetic materials with quality craftsmanship and design. Suitable for vegans, vegetarians and all those who care about the environment

For a FREE full colour catalogue call or fax 01929 480360 or write to:
Ethical Wares, Dept **FL**
17 Townsend Road, Corfe Castle,
Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5ET

One Earth Shop

The Midland's only vegan shop sells a wide range of wholefoods, convenience foods, cosmetics, candles, soap, oils and much more. They also stock **Ethical Wares** non-leather footwear.

A mail order service is now available. Call in or write/phone for details.

One Earth Shop, 54 Allison Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 57H (0121 632 6909).

Ruddy Duck Slaughter Cancelled

The Department of the Environment has cancelled its plans for a mass slaughter of ruddy ducks in the UK following protests by Animal Aid across the country over the Easter weekend. As reported in the group's 'Outrage' magazine, the ruddy duck's alleged crime was to have flown over to Spain from this country and mated with the endangered white-headed duck (a closely-related stifftail). The resulting hybrid was viewed as 'impure' by some conservation groups and they pressed for the ruddys to be culled, determined to conserve the 'racially pure' white-headed duck.

A 'Ruddy Duck Working Group' was set up in the UK, consisting chiefly of representatives from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Department of the Environment. Trial shootings of ruddys took place, with some birds dying in prolonged agony. One took 2 hours to die. Another was shot 13 times and was still alive when picked up from the water.

Animal Aid's highly publicised demonstration outside the RSPB's AGM in October 1996 helped raise public awareness about the planned cull and Animal Aid decided to follow the protests outside each of the 8 Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Centres over the Easter weekend. Both organisations actively supported a further trial cull of ruddy ducks this Spring and AA needed the help of their members to get the slaughter stopped. The Group distributed thousands of leaflets to Trust visitors explaining the campaign and urged them to support Animal Aid by raising the issue during their visit. The protests attracted considerable media attention and triggered a series of regional radio and TV debates.

Animal Aid's position was quite clear: that they support the valuable efforts of conservation charities who work to preserve species' habitats and to raise public awareness about wildlife, but that when certain groups begin to advocate the killing of one species in order to conserve another, Animal Aid will do everything they can to stop them. Animal Aid are convinced that the level of public opposition to the cull gave the DoE the final push it needed. A couple of days after the WWT protests, the DoE advised Animal Aid that it 'currently' has 'no plans for a trial cull'. And an official spokesperson for English Nature - who have been advising the government on the issue and had serious reservations about the killings - told AA, *"It's off indefinitely as far as we are concerned. We are very pleased that the Government has taken our advice... the Government does not wish it to take place so it will not take place."* Animal Aid will continue campaigning to ensure that this decision is a permanent one.

Please write to the Department of the Environment, European Wildlife Division, Room 902E, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol BS2 9DJ to congratulate them on their decision to cancel the ruddy duck cull and to ask them to ensure that the cull will not be resumed at a later date.

For further information contact:

***Animal Aid,
The Old Chapel, Bradford Street,
Tonbridge,
Kent TN9 1AW
(01732 364546)***



London Animal Action News

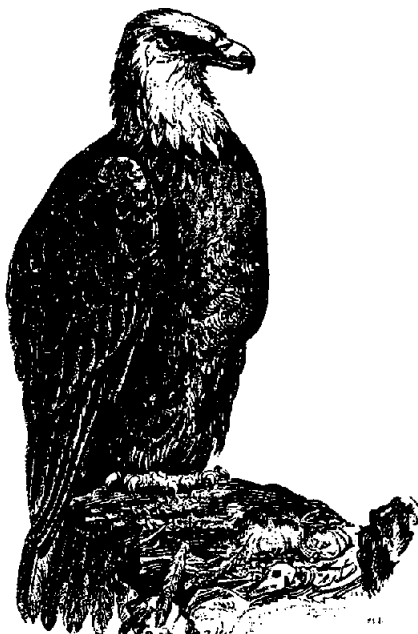
Fur Trade

LAA is the largest independent local animal rights group in London. They have continued to be very active since the last issue with a number of ongoing campaigns. Fur Free London remains the focus for regular activity, with pickets of London's remaining fur shops on a weekly basis and home visits to fur shop directors. They have also been investigating mink farms all over the country and were involved in setting up a UK branch of the international Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT).

Vivisection Industry

Increased action against the vivisection industry nationwide has led to the launch of London Anti-Vivisection Action (LAVA), set up in May 1997 to encourage protest against vivisection in London.

Events so far have included home visits to vivisectors and company directors of Huntingdon Life Sciences. Future activity includes a national demonstration against BIBRA International, a contract research and testing laboratory, on August 30th. London activists have also supported other campaigns around the country such as those at Consort Beagles (now closed) and Hill Grove Cat Breeders and Huntingdon Research Centre. LAA held an eventful demonstration around Central London at vivisection abuse establishments on World Day for Laboratory Animals. Other anti-vivisection activity has included demos at cancer research shops and headquarters, and pickets of Unilever and Glaxo Wellcome AGM's held in London.



Hunt Sabbing

Many individuals in LAA are active hunt saboteurs who encourage closer links between animal rights and London's several hunt sab groups. At the recent pro-hunt march on July 10th 1997, LAA held a picket at the offices of the BFSS in south London. They were involved in various other activities during the day such as picketing Downing Street and protesting at angling/shooting shops.

The flagship John Lewis department store on Oxford Street has been leafleted every Saturday afternoon informing the public of their involvement in bloodsports. This is in support of the National Anti Hunting Campaign in their fight to close down John Lewis' shooting estate in Hampshire, where their top executives go on weekend killing sprees.

Live Exports

Other individuals in the group dedicate much of their time to supporting the live export protests at the MAFF offices in London and at Dover port. LAA members also attended demos at the farms of Peter and Gordon Gilder, two of the main live export hauliers.

McDonald's

LAA has always had close links with the McLibel Support Campaign and have been active picketing stores and distributing leaflets against McDonald's. Following the verdict of the libel trial LAA had a victory Day of Action targeting the West End stores.

Office/Stalls

LAA have had their own office since Jan. '97 which is staffed on a daily basis by volunteers. The group hold regular stalls around London which educate the public and encourage people to get actively involved in the struggle for animal liberation. LAA produce the increasingly popular London Animal Rights News (LARN) with a growing international readership! They hold an open meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at the 1a Community Centre, 1a Rosebery Avenue, London EC1. Subscription to LARN costs £5 per year (conc. £3).

London Animal Action
BM Box 2248, London WC1 3XX
Tel: 0171 278 3068
e-mail: larn@londonaa.demon.co.uk



Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade

According to the latest Government figures there are now only ten mink fur farms licensed in Britain. This means that over the past year two mink farms have closed. Please let CAFT know if you have any information at all relating to fur farms. The Labour Party have stated in their animal welfare leaflet that they 'stand for an end to fur farming', and correspondence with Elliot Morley (previously Labour's Animal Welfare Spokesperson and now a junior agriculture minister) has revealed that the new Government will not issue fur licences under the Mink Keeping Order. Without this licence mink farms cannot legally operate. According to the 'Mink (Keeping) Regulations' licences are granted for a period not exceeding 12 months. If Labour stick to their word then, fingers crossed, the few remaining mink farms should be closing. Contact CAFT for any developments. Unfortunately the Labour Party do not intend to ban all fur farming, believing that if they did they 'would face a legal challenge and end up paying compensation'. This means that fox and chinchilla farming can continue (although there are currently no fox farms left in Britain, they could start again unless the law is changed). There are no licences required for farming any animal other than mink for their fur, and CAFT will be campaigning to have ALL fur farming banned. The Mink (Keeping) Order should come up again for renewal in January 1998 and we will be ensuring that the Government issues a Prohibition Order to prohibit the keeping of mink altogether.

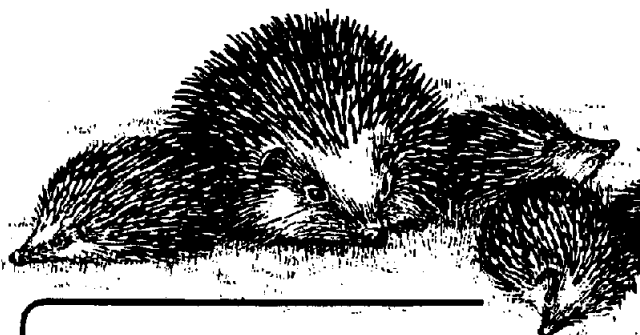
Some disturbing news has just reached CAFT (June) that the Council of Europe (CoE) is discussing new laws that will make things even worse for animals reared for their fur. The CoE's Standing Committee of the European Convention on the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes is trying to set up international standards for the 'basic needs' of fur farmed animals. In reality this will endorse fur farming, and under draft guidelines mink will be confined to wire cages measuring 30cm by 70cm - the floor-space equivalent to about 2 shoe-boxes. Arctic foxes will be confined to cages with less than a square metre of floor space. This is probably not much different to present conditions but allows fur farmers to claim that these horrific conditions are 'approved'. June's edition of the BBC Wildlife magazine, who have seen the leaked discussion documents, states that if the Committee agrees to the guidelines becoming law 'they will have to be implemented by member states (the CoE is composed of representatives from 40 European nations) and there will be little chance of amending them in the future, since a proposal for such an amendment can be blocked by the vote of just one member'. 'Democracy' in action yet again. Not surprisingly the British

Fur Trade Association welcomes the proposals; showing great stupidity and great ignorance about the semi-aquatic mink a BFTA spokesperson said that providing enriched environments was 'not practical' because 'if mink have access to swimming water they would get wet and probably get cold and die'. We don't want bigger cages and 'enriched environments', we want empty cages and free animals!

It is still possible for member countries to block an agreement of fur farm 'standards' and if this happens the proposals will be shelved. Please write an urgent letter to Dr. Jack Cunningham at the Ministry of Agriculture requesting that the UK does not agree to the guidelines (point out Labour's opposition to fur farming) MAFF, Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HH.

For further information contact:

*Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade,
PO Box M60 1NX (0171 278 3068)
e-mail: caft@londonaa.demon.co.uk*



Barbaric Bar-B-Q Abandoned

A self-styled 'King of the Gypsies' was organising a hedgehog bar-b-q event in Uttoxeter, where hedgehogs marinated in honey and stuffed with shrimps were to be served to in excess of 500 people.

Adrian Coles, Chief Executive of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, which has a membership of nearly 11,000 said, "I am pleased that common sense prevailed and this 'gimmick' has been cancelled."

For further information regarding hedgehogs please write to:

*British Hedgehog Preservation Society,
Knowbury House, Knowbury, Ludlow,
Shropshire SY8 3LQ (01584 890287)*

St. Petersburg Society for the Protection of Stray Animals

by Hilary Zendjebil (*Chairwoman of Bognor and Chichester Action for Animals*)

In June 1997 I spent a few days in St. Petersburg, visiting a friend who was studying Russian at the University. I had taken with me my 'Animals Contacts Directory' and on the last day of my stay I made an appointment to visit the St. Petersburg Society for the Protection of Animals, the only charity in Russia with shelters for sick and stray animals. I had already seen large numbers of street animals in the city and had wondered if any of them would survive the freezing winter.

I was met outside the clinic by Nina Shustrova, the vice-chairperson of the Society. She had kindly brought with her a young student to translate for me and she introduced me to a number of adopted cats who all ran towards her. She explained that the Society was founded in 1990 to provide a veterinary clinic for those who could not afford to pay and to set up a rescue/re-homing centre for stray dogs and cats.

They had started out with very little, a damp basement with no running water, no equipment and no toilet and as I was shown around I was struck by the tremendous dedication it must have taken to have established the clinic. In a different building outside the city they have also built a large home for dogs and cats. A little shop in the waiting area sold dog and cat food, worming tablets and flea powder and this helps to finance the clinic. In the treatment room I was shown an operating table and surgical equipment. We next went through into a tiny staff room where we had a long discussion about the many difficulties that the Society faces.

Many people in Russia are very poor indeed at the moment and membership of the Society had fallen from 600 to 400 in the last year - this hardship was brought home to me when I learned that annual membership only costs about 50p. The cost of medicines is huge, especially those to put animals to sleep. Nina had tried to get money from municipal sources but so far this has failed. The bureaucracy involved in applying for help in Russia is very daunting.

Some funding from abroad had recently been withdrawn and Nina was very worried about how they could possibly manage to keep the clinic and shelter open. She would be in favour of setting up a neutering programme if the money was available. Originally they had hoped that their Society's projects would be copied in other parts of Russia and Nina was disappointed that, so far, this had not happened.

As I left we promised to write to each other. I felt that it would be terribly sad if this organisation, giving a glimmer of hope to animals in Russia, were to fail now because of a lack of money.

If you would like to send a donation, however small, to help the St. Petersburg Society for the Protection of Stray Animals, please send it to:

'St. Petersburg Appeal'

**Mr. A Jones (Treasurer), 93a Hazel Road, Bognor
Regis, West Sussex.**

*(Please make cheques/PO's payable to 'Bognor and
Chichester Action for Animals')*

A few words about Arkangel Magazine...

Arkangel is completely independent of any other organisation. Our aims are to further the cause of animal liberation by providing:

- useful information to those involved in the animal liberation movement,
- a resource for other readers, such as school students,
- a forum for debate on animal liberation issues.

We rely for the content on contributions from readers in the form of reports, letters, artwork and articles - without which there would be no magazine.

Just before each new issue we worry about whether we can afford to get it printed. The income from sales of one issue do not cover the cost of the next! We rely entirely on donations to make up the difference. The more money we have, the more magazines we can afford to print.

So, please send reports, articles and artwork, and if you've got any money left after helping out the good causes mentioned in this issue - please send us that too! Thanks.

News from the ALF Press Office

by Robin Webb

Hungry for change - starved of publicity

Most of my report for the previous edition of Arkangel was based around the massive upsurge of activity sparked by Barry Horne's courageous hunger strike; it also made clear the conspiracy to keep animal liberation out of the newspapers, off the TV screens and silenced from the radio waves.

Since that time so many determined demonstrations have taken place which have seen police lines breached, fencing torn down and animals rescued - not to mention the desperate use of CS gas by out-of-control riot police - that it would be difficult to list them all. The most notable victory must surely be the announcement that beagle-breeders Consort Kennels were to close. A clear result of constant picketing, angry invasions and ALF raids. Hy-Line Rabbits... Consort Kennels... next, please!

Also, since that time Geoff Sheppard, serving 7 years in HMP Parkhurst for wanting animal liberation, made a personal stand against vivisection by undertaking, in his own words, a '3-week fast' from Monday 5th May. Geoff, who had given strong practical support to Barry Horne earlier this year, wanted to set a firm date from the beginning to show he would do what he set out to achieve but later agreed that it could have been more accurately described as a '21-day hunger strike'. It was no surprise when the media coverage was virtually non-existent... those in power are just terrified of selfless commitment in pursuit of a better world.

The firm resolve of those in prison is being further inspired by the sustained mood of passionate determination at demos and rallies during recent months. The sacrifices of those like Geoff and Barry will continue to spur all of us on to even greater efforts. It's an ever-strengthening circle of mutual support. Cheers Geoff, cheers Barry, you're a real shot in the arm!

The Press Office in prison - again!

One of the more unusual talks the press office has undertaken occurred recently when I was invited to a double session (all morning) with the environmental group inside a prison that has to remain anonymous. The session began

with a showing of 'Animal Liberation - The Movie' then continued through the various arguments and areas of animal abuse into an extended discussion period. It was comforting to know that I was going to be let out again the same day but still felt pretty strange to have doors unlocked for me as I went through each one.

Written reaction from the prisoners which was forwarded to me later was quite enlightening. To quote from just a few: *"Some of the information was shocking and left a sour taste in the mouth, especially in areas of animal testing" ... "I would be more inclined to break some legs" ... "the ALF should become more involved with Justice Department and other more paramilitary organisations and really take the fight into the homes of those involved" ... "Try not to be as radical as the ARM and JD as that would lead to the ALF's downfall eventually" ... "the companies that sponsor and run these labs should be financially ruined, their insurance policies need scrutinizing so the maximum amount of damage can be done to them" ... "to see how they killed the pig as they did (in the video) sent a great shock through me" and a final example ... "I think you should do whatever you want because to be honest I am not really that concerned"*. Oh well, you can't win 'em all!

Got shot of another trial

After nearly 3 years the shotgun lunacy reached its conclusion but with a virtual whimper rather than the expected big bang (-up)! The first day opened with Dave Hammond's barrister presenting his skeleton argument which included a demand that the informant's identity be disclosed, during which three possible candidates were named. My barrister then outlined a claimed conspiracy by various police forces to convict me of something - anything - and requested disclosure of the security forces and secret services roles including the agency responsible for placing the admitted tracking device on my vehicle. He also supported the submission from Dave's barrister whilst adding a fourth name to the list of possible informants.

From that time on the prosecution were asking for adjournments; seeking further advice from the CPS, discussing matters with the judge in chambers (in private) and generally getting worried about what they may be ordered to disclose. During the second afternoon the judge made it clear that the reasons for such delays were 'new submissions' put forward by my barrister.

Came the third day and - Lo! - the prosecution wished to offer no evidence and invited the judge to return 'not guilty' verdicts. So, we still don't know the involvement of the security forces and MI5 and - like the Reading 3 trial - still don't know the identity of the informant. All we do know is that it's over at last. Costs? Compensation? You must be joking!

New Labour - new hope?

New Labour made many promises leading up to the last general election, a number of which related to animal abuse. Let's take some time out and look at the promises, given in writing, then compare them with what has actually been done. Please bear in mind Tony Blair's words speaking in the House of Commons on 2nd July 1997: *"When we make promises we will keep them"*.

Firstly, on animal experimentation New Labour were 'proposing a Royal Commission to investigate the claims that animals need to be used and to recommend on alternatives' and wanted to 'see an end to ... tests like the LD50 and the use of animals in any experiment related to tobacco, alcohol and weapons development'. By the 10th July 1997 Lord William of Mostyn, who has Ministerial responsibility for the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, wrote that he does 'not believe that a Royal Commission is necessary at this time'.

More fine words came about bloodsports with New Labour being 'committed to an immediate suspension of licences to hunting with hounds on Forestry Commission and Ministry of Defence Land'. This promise resulted in a temporary suspension of licences outside the hunting season while an internal review is carried out. New Labour won't even reveal who is carrying out the review!

New Labour then committed itself to a free vote on whether to ban hunting with hounds. If such a vote was successful they would 'ensure a bill to ban these activities would have the necessary parliamentary time' and that there would 'be no compromise with the Lords on this issue'. Tony Blair has said that he will vote for the bill but so far his Government has refused to confirm that time will be made available. This follows persistent reports that New Labour whips put tremendous pressure on Mike Foster MP not to put forward the private members bill.

If we don't win the anti-hunting bill this time it will be lost for ten or twenty years, perhaps even longer. It must not be lost. If you have a Labour MP write asking them to meet the promise that time would be made available. Also write to Tony Blair whether or not your constituency MP is Labour. Organise pickets and demonstrations outside your local Labour Party offices but make sure you let the local news media know it's happening. Demonstrations outside Labour MPs' homes or presenting them with local petitions

is another possibility. ALF actions and hunt sabotage can stop some hunts and some blood junkies and save some individual animals' lives but only parliamentary legislation, properly enforced, can stop hunting *per se*. We may not like the system, but that's the real world and we owe it to our brothers and sisters of other species to do whatever is necessary to make sure that this time we win. We must not allow this bill to fail, the animals out there have waited far too long already. Don't just ask Tony Blair to keep his promises, DEMAND that he does so. DEMAND that he shows his Government is free from sleaze and two-faced political opportunism. DEMAND that he proves that New Labour still has a little bit of compassion as an ingredient. A broken promise to us just means frustration. To a fox, hare, deer or mink it's a matter of life or death.

What have they been up to again?

Most of you will be aware that, although I am a member of the NUJ, to attempt anything like a full list of ALF and similar actions would be considered grounds for, yet again, charging me with incitement! That said, up and down the country windows are being removed to improve ventilation during the hot weather, locks are being glued to aid security and animals are being taken to new homes so that feeding costs are more evenly distributed. Oh dear, that last bit sounds a bit more like Old Labour than New Labour ... sorry, Tony!

During mid-April, around the time the previous Arkangel was being printed, the Institute of Animal Technicians held its 3-day annual conference at Exeter University. Not only were the delegates greeted by an angry, vociferous group of protesters, more than 30 windows at the Hatherley biological science laboratories and other places at the University were smashed. Inspector Hierons of Exeter police said, *"We are linking this incident to the protesters"* and added, no doubt with a glazed expression, *"Who else would want to damage laboratory windows?"*

Live exports and 'livestock' haulage were hit a couple of weeks later when Spiers Haulage in Claverdon, near Warwick, was attacked with incendiary devices. One tractor unit was completely destroyed with others damaged; The cost of this devastation was around £30,000. Near that time envelopes containing razor blades were sent to a number of Tory election candidates in attacks which appeared to be bloodsports-related.

The infamous Hillgrove Farm cat breeding establishment was also attacked during the same period, this time Farmer Brown's Range Rover was destroyed with further damage to parts of the farmhouse totalling in excess of £30,000. Of course, Hillgrove Farm continues to be subject to angry demonstrations, raids and mysterious damage. The unfortunate holidaymakers at Hillgrove's rented cottage

have complained to the English Tourist Board having said that: *"We didn't know what we were walking into!"*

Into May and butchers shops were still being hit almost nightly up and down the country. One example was the Dorset Meat Company store in Dorchester which opened for the first time having been fitted out at a cost of tens of thousands of pounds. The only thing missing was the £1,300 front window. The distraught butcher complained that he 'was just about to put the shutters on when this happened'... Also in May the ALF rescued at least 15 beagles from the now-closed Consort Kennels, adding to the ten puppies liberated earlier this year. Beagles lead us neatly into the report that Spreo Pets pet shop in Isleworth, Greater London, was painted with graffiti and sent a letter warning that etching fluid attacks may be next. The letter demanded that the shop stop selling 'pets' because they 'don't give a damn as to where the animals end up'.

During June in Alton, Hampshire, the High Street was closed when an area outside Boots the Chemist was sealed off while firefighters wearing chemical protection suits dealt with an 'unidentified substance' covering a door into the store in an alcove between Boots and a butcher's shop. Five members of Boots staff were taken to Alton Health Centre suffering the effects of the fumes, the Hampshire police (you must remember the Hampshire Loonies from my trials and tribulations!) declared a major incident alert because of 'the possibility of Animal Liberation Front activity' and called the Scenes of Crime Officer to 'analyse the chemical and evaluate the danger'. The highly dangerous blue liquid chemical was finally identified as ... toilet cleaner. It could surely only happen to the Hampshire Loonies, even I couldn't make that one up! Many thanks to Det. Supt. Desmond Thomas's trusty band of silly plods for yet more amusement in these dark times...

And finally... just in case the last example was all Greek to you then here's the news that in June the McDonald's in Athens was warned that a hoax bomb had been placed. Not only MuckD's but the entire surrounding area was cleared

for some time... statistics are not yet available to show whether there has been a short-term improvement in human health due to the closure!

In closing...

As I write this the National Anti-Hunt Campaign's march and rally is less than a week away. Don't worry about the reported numbers of sadistic halfwits in Hyde Park, that cost the hunts a fortune to bus them in, was claimed as being in support of hunting when it was originally arranged to cover many rural concerns, was far too early (a week is a long time in politics as someone once said) and is an event that could never be repeated. The violent threats made by many speakers were just confirmation that they know they're losing but we mustn't allow that to make us complacent. Read New Labour - new hope? again and again: make sure you don't rest until we've won this one. Use the NAHC rally to draw strength from those who share your compassion ...we can do it as it's literally just now been announced that the New Forest Buckhounds are to give up. How many jobs will be lost? Two... surely they can find places on a Government training scheme?

In the last Arkangel, when writing about support for Barry Horne's hunger strike I mentioned that the anti-vivisection organisation Uncaged said, basically, that they did not support him. That was what Barry told me and we believed it to be true at that time but I'm pleased to say it was all a misunderstanding so, sorry to Uncaged (I was at your march and rally in June so I'm sure we haven't fallen out!). It's nice to be proved wrong in such circumstances!

Meanwhile, Consort Kennels have closed, Huntingdon Life Sciences (and Occold) are having real problems, Hillgrove Farm can't hold out much longer and I've just mentioned the New Forest Buckhounds. We're on our way, keep working... keep shouting... keep fighting for animal liberation! We don't want it tomorrow, we want it now... let's all go together and get it!

ANIMAL LIBERATION PRISONERS

Arkangel gives its full support to animal liberation prisoners. We list only the names of prisoners and ask people to contact the ALFSG for up-to-date information, prison numbers and addresses. This is because Arkangel Magazine is produced less frequently than the ALFSG information and could be out of date by the time you read it.

ALF SG, BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX

Prisoners at the time of writing:

Dave Callender, Darren Cole, Rod Coronado, Tony Daly, Kenny Gloster, Michael Green, Barry Horne, Frank Korcera, Keith Mann, Gillian Peachey, Mike Roberts, Geoff Sheppard, Charles Skinner, Barbara Trenholm, Justin Wright.

Some Recommended Reading!

ALF Supporters Group Newsletter: *BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX.* £1.50. Contains information concerning A/R prisoners and defence funds, articles and news. Quarterly.

ARC News: *PO Box 339, Wolverhampton WV10 7BZ (01902 711935).* Free with 31p SAE. Contains reports of local group activities and national/international news as well as an up-to-date list of forthcoming events.

Animals Contact Directory: *Veggies, 180 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW.* £4 (£3 unwaged). This booklet provides a coordinated means by which groups can contact one another with details of their work, news of campaigns and requests for support. The booklet also contains lists of animal rights groups, animal sanctuaries etc. and is an invaluable source of information.

Eco-Vegan: *BM Heal, London WC1N 3XX.* Free with SAE. Contains information concerning A/R and Earth liberation activities.

Green Anarchist: *BCM 1715, London WC1N 3XX.* £1. Contains news, views and an ALF hit-list amongst other things.

London Animal Rights News: *BCM 2248, London WC1N 3XX.* £5 (£3 unwaged) for 12 issues. Highly recommended with news of London events as well as those in other parts of the country/world.

Squall: *PO Box 8959, London N19 5HW.* £1.50 + 80p p&p. A year's subscription (4 issues) costs £10. Covers issues such as Earth/Animal liberation and more.

Underground: *NA-ALFSG, Box 69597, 5845 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2M 4K3.* \$20 outside of US. A highly recommended paper which contains Animal Liberation news from all over the world including a comprehensive ALF/direct action hit-list.

Vegan Views: *6 Hayes Avenue, Bournemouth BH7 7AD.* £3 for 4 issues. The magazine acts as an exchange between its readers.

The Vegan: *Donald Watson House, 7 Battle Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 7AA (01424 427393).* £1.75 quarterly. A must for those already vegan or those seeking a vegan lifestyle.

Donations — — — — —

We are extremely grateful to the following people who have made a donation of £4 or more to help us produce and distribute this magazine:

Dorothy Adams, Alexia Askaridou,
Catherine Burgess, TM Bellinger, Betty Cooke,
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Annie Taylor, Montserrat Thompson,
M & LJ Thomas.

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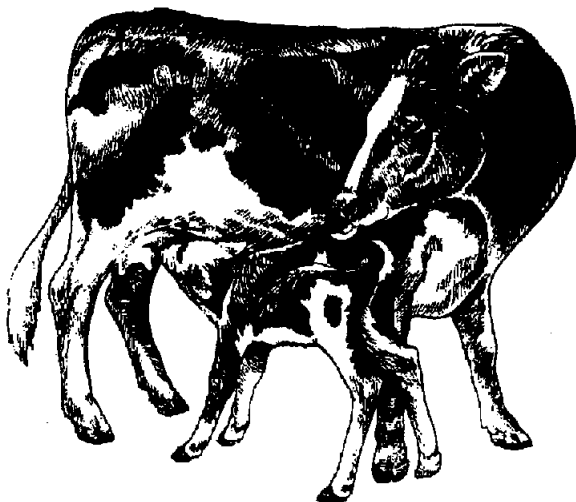
Arkangel Back Issues & Cards

Arkangel Back Issues: Numbers 2, 4 and 16 are still available and are FREE of charge! (But please send 50p per magazine to cover the postage - £1.00 outside of the UK).

Cards: A set of three postcards featuring cats are available. Prices are as follows: 10p each, 15 for £1, 100+ cards 5p each. Please add 25p p&p for orders of less than 50 cards.

Order from: Arkangel, BCM 9240,
London WC1N 3XX.

*Please make cheques payable to
'Arkangel'*



Anti-Veal Calf Demonstrators Get Damages From Warwickshire Police

Warwickshire Police have agreed to pay damages of £15,500 to four demonstrators who were arrested at Coventry Airport between February and April 1995.

Sixty-six year old Patricia Belcher, Helen Lear, Andrew Caines and Brent Reid have been awarded the money in respect of their arrests at Coventry Airport whilst demonstrating against the export of veal calves to the continent via Coventry Airport in 1995.

All four brought actions against Warwickshire Police, claiming damages for assault, unlawful arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

John Davis, of Irwin Mitchell Solicitors in Sheffield who took on the case said afterwards:

"These awards clearly demonstrate that a number of peaceful protesters were treated callously by the police. These cases represent typical incidents at Coventry Airport and we are pursuing similar claims for other demonstrators. I am very pleased to have assisted in achieving justice for these people."

Should anyone need to contact John Davis, his telephone number is 0114 2767777, Fax 0114 2753306.

THE ROAD TO VICTORY!

A ground-breaking scientific study, commissioned by the National Trust, has found that an animal hunted by hounds goes through a long, dark agony of fear, stress and utter exhaustion. The staghound packs in the West Country, on Exmoor and the Quantock Hills, can no longer deny their sport is cruel, said Professor Patrick Bateson, a Cambridge University animal behaviour expert. The Trust's council is also expected to call on the Government to commission a study into the stress which hunting with hounds causes to foxes. Red deer are pitifully ill-equipped for pursuit by hunters on horseback with dogs, lacking musculature, being relatively sedentary and lacking the stamina for long moorland chases lasting an average of 3 hours and covering 12 miles but can range for more than 20. Professor Bateson said, from a point of physiology, the results are entirely unambiguous. Pursuits caused their clear blood plasma to become tinged with magenta red with freed haemoglobin; blood levels of stress hormones to leak and continue rising, as did pain-control chemicals. The report says deer which escaped the hounds, about half, suffer severe stress, take days to recover and would probably be left more vulnerable to infection and disease. (Unknown source).

Anna Wintour, editor of US Vogue, known as 'Nuclear Wintour', is the target of PETA, to 'out' her for not giving up furs. She was sent an invite to a PETA fashion bash, and a Wintour look-alike was seen holding a look-alike magazine called 'Morgue'. Morgue splashed across it a teaser; 'What I did with my unwanted beaver' by Anna Wintour. PETA has received a warning from her

lawyers, however, PETA is thriving on the publicity.
(Unknown)

Legal aid has been awarded to the family of Peter Hall, 20, who died in February 1996 from a new variant CJD, to sue the Government. (*Independent* 20.3.1997)

People who eat sheep's liver or kidney more than once a week could be at risk from cadmium poisoning, which causes kidney and liver damage. (*Independent* 20.3.1997)

A survey of meat bought at ten butchers' shops in Edinburgh has revealed cause for concern. In 3 cases out of 10, meat bought contained large amounts of coliforms (bacteria) showing meat is either too old to sell or had not been properly handled. (*Independent* 20.3.1997)

Between 400 and 500 tons of Toblerone were removed from Swiss stores after they were found to contain illegal genetically altered soya beans. The lecithin posed no health risks, but was illegal under Swiss law. The Swiss Co-op announced it was stopping distribution of selected vegetarian products after some were found to contain genetically modified soya from the United States. (*Independent* 22.3.1997)

There are about 5,000 pairs of nesting barn owls in the UK. Eggs are incubated for 4 weeks. They feed on voles and rats, hunting at dawn and dusk. (*Independent* 23.3.1997)

The EC is poised to prosecute Britain in the European Court of Justice over the way farmers dispose of sheep dip chemicals. The poisonous chemicals, implicated in Gulf War syndrome and other chronic illnesses, can still be poured on farmland when mixed with slurry after dipping. The commission's view is that it should go to hazardous waste sites. (*Independent* 25.3.1997)

Aubrey Hancock, 62, a beef farmer from Alford, Lincolnshire, has been fined £9,000 and ordered to pay £25,000 costs at Lincoln Crown Court for giving false information to support a claim that his cattle had never been exposed to BSE. He admitted 3 charges of providing a false trade description of goods. It is thought to be the first successful prosecution of its kind instigated by the Ministry of Agriculture. (*Times* 1.4.1997)

Tough safety standards set out last year to eradicate BSE from gelatine are inadequate, the EC's new food health watchdog, the Multi-disciplinary Scientific Commission declared. It said technical treatment conditions imposed on Britain are no guarantee of avoiding contamination. Tougher standards are no doubt bound to be introduced. A decision came as British doctors warned that growth promoters used to produce plump farm animals may pose a risk to humans by encouraging the spread of drug-resistant bacteria. It follows the case of an accident in which a man broke his leg in a chicken factory and his wound became infected with antibiotic resistant bacteria, the same as had colonised the factory. (*Independent* 4.4.1997)

Shares in Glaxo Wellcome were hit yesterday after it emerged that the UK's biggest drugs company had been forced to issue a warning about the potentially lethal effects of one of its best-selling products, Lamictal, an anti-epilepsy drug launched in Ireland in 1990. It has been implicated in recent tests as the cause of a possibly fatal skin condition in children. Sales of the drug last year were £105m, out of £8.34bn total company sales. The drug has been licensed for use by children in 25 countries. (*Independent* 4.4.1997)

New hygiene proposals for butchers may be the final nail in the coffin for many small shops. The BSE nightmare has already closed a number of businesses. The massive E.coli virus outbreak in Scotland last year which claimed 18 lives has prompted great concern about shops selling cooked and raw meat. For many years butchers handled raw meat and nothing else, but competition from larger supermarkets forced those businesses to diversify with cooked products and cheese an obvious choice. Now it is likely that separate fridges, counters, and most significantly, staff, will be required for the two distinct ranges. This will make life difficult for the small trader. (*Daily Echo* 9.4.1997)

Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) may be linked to the failure to detect breast cancer as HRT increases the density of the breast tissue, thereby making detection harder in the earlier stages. Interval cancer, cancers detected between mammograph screenings, are 4 times higher in women on HRT. (*Independent* 11.4.1997)

We should not be surprised by the outbreaks of food poisoning from E.coli 0157. Neither should we be surprised if things get worse. The E.coli disaster was allowed to happen because Britain, wedded to the concept of cheap food, turns as many blind eyes as it takes to revolting farming practices, insanitary food processing and unacceptable quality. We should not be talking about the food chain any more - the poison chains would be a more accurate term. We have simply accepted that salmonella, listeria, BSE and E.coli 0157 are part of our lives. Disgraceful and insanitary practices from farm to fork. It is not an offence to present a dirty animal for slaughter, nor indeed for a dirty animal to be slaughtered. Animals are routinely slaughtered in their own shit. (*Observer* 13.4.1997)

The Quantock Stag Hounds will almost certainly hunt for the last time on 28th April after the National Trust banned stag hunting on Exmoor on the basis of scientific evidence that it was unnatural and cruel. (*Observer* 13.4.1997)

The mailing of live cats is to be banned in Switzerland. About 85 animals are posted every day, mainly to laboratories. (*Observer* 13.4.1997)

Eastman Kodak Co. has introduced a new digital camera for less than £620 that produces unusually sharp pictures for the price, an important boost to the market

for film-less cameras. (*Independent* 15.4.1997)

Feathers are to be used to build up a DNA database which will help convict thieves who steal birds of prey and their eggs. (*Independent* 16.4.1997)

A rescue plan was launched for the black grouse, which is twice the size of the smaller more abundant red grouse, but is suffering from one of the fastest declines of any British bird species. It is still legally shot for sport. Numbers are down to 6,300 males. The greatest threat to their survival is degradation of their habitat, caused mainly by sheep, which is encouraged by European subsidies. (*Independent* 16.4.1997)

Scientists at Leicester University have developed a DNA test for animals which could make badger-baiting a thing of the past. The technique allows prosecutors to link any animal matter found on an alleged baiter with a specific animal. In the past, scientists could only say whether or not blood or tissue was from the badger species. This allowed baiters to claim in their defence that they were digging for foxes which is lawful, and that any badger tissue found on them came from the foxes den. It is now being used for the first time in an RSPCA prosecution next month. (*Independent* 16.4.1997)

A vegetarian chef has won his case that his dole money should not be stopped because he refused to cook meat. Simon Beavis, 25, a vegetarian since the age of 12, argued that his rights had been infringed when officials at his job centre ruled that he was restricting his chances of employment. (*Times* 18.4.1997)

Riot police clashed yesterday with more than 1,000 animal rights demonstrators who stormed the Consort Kennel at Harewood End, near Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, which breeds beagles for laboratory experiments. (*Mail on Sunday* 20.4.1997)

Brigitte Bardot, actress turned animal rights activist, attacked the Moscow authorities for a planned massacre of stray animals during the city's 850th anniversary. (*Independent* 22.4.1997)

There is nothing new about transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Records show that ovine (sheep) TSE, known as scrapie, was spotted in East Anglian sheep in 1732. From 1913 to 1921, cases of what turned out to be human analogues of scrapie - CJD - was spotted in Germany. Over the years, various diseases joined the TSE camp; transmittable mink encephalopathy (TME) and chronic wasting disease (CWD), a disease of captive mule deer and elk; and in humans Gerstmann-Straussler-Scheinker Syndrome (GSS), fatal familial insomnia (FFI) and, more famously, Kuru. There are more than 20 strains of scrapie, and the hunt for the scrapie agent began in Scotland in the 1930's, following a 1935 disaster when a vaccine for a sheep disease became contaminated with the scrapie agent, killing 1,200 of the animals immunised. (*Independent on Sunday* 27.4.1997)

Police sealed off roads surrounding the Oxford home of one of Britain's leading scientists yesterday after a march by hundreds of animals rights protesters. 200 officers stood by to prevent protesters reaching the home of Professor Colin Blakemore, Waynflete Professor of Physiology at Oxford University. (*Independent on Sunday* 27.4.1997)

Razor blades were posted to a Euro MP and a haulage firm was fire-bombed during two days of protest by animal rights activists. Police were investigating a firebomb attack at Spiers' haulage depot in Claverdon, Warwickshire, early yesterday. A lorry tractor unit was destroyed by flames and bomb disposal experts defused a number of other devices. (*Daily Mail* 28.4.1997)

The European Commission is to investigate the safety of steroids following campaigning from relatives of steroid victims. The Public Health Unit in Luxembourg has asked for more information from Group Action into Steroid Prescribing (GASP), which believes one type, cortico-steroids, popular with asthma sufferers, has caused several deaths and thousands of injuries. (*Independent* 30.4.1997)

Animal Welfare campaigners condemned London Zoo's reintroduction of bears to its newly refurbished Mappin Terrace at Regent's Park after an absence of 12 years. Other animals have been introduced into the zoo enclosure to simulate natural conditions, such as muntjac deer, peacocks and monkeys. The WSPA described the import of two Sri Lankan Sloth bears from Warsaw Zoo as cynical, intended to attract crowds rather than conserve. An animal psychologist Dr. Roger Mugford insisted that no matter what the conditions, the bears always suffer in captivity, and that London Zoo is totally about showbiz. (*Independent* 1.5.1997)

Nations where meat-eating is part of the culture tend to have higher rates of colon cancer, and some studies suggest that the risk is linked to red meat, according to the journal, *Carcinogenesis*. (*Times* 6.5.1997)

Carrolltown, Pennsylvania: A 400lb Bengal tiger pounced on its trainer in front of a circus audience of at least 200 children and their families, killing him and dragging him round the ring by his neck. (*Times* 9.5.1997)

The RSPB and the Forestry Commission have published a blueprint for managing forests to boost the conservation of rare and endangered birds. Already, much has gone into conserving several types of forest birds. The paper focuses primarily on man-made, largely coniferous forests. Birds which could benefit include the Scottish crossbill, the black grouse and the barn owl. (*Independent* 10.5.1997)

The BSE crisis is being blamed for the closure of a Staffordshire meat company with debts of almost £170,000. Seven people have lost their jobs after

Stonepark Foods went into liquidation. The directors of the firm on Stone Business Park have blamed the crisis surrounding BSE for the slump in trade. (*North Staffordshire Sentinel* 10.5.1997)

Welsh bats are poised for a population explosion. Scientists have launched a radio monitoring programme to track the Greater Horseshoe Bat to find out what it likes to eat and where it goes for food. The Countryside Council for Wales hopes that the population can be increased by 25% over the next 12 years by identifying and safeguarding food. The CCW plan is to save and protect 54 endangered species and 12 key habitats in Wales. They include the medicinal leech, the brown hare, corncrake, sand lizard, black bog ant and greater crested newt. (*Independent on Sunday* 11.5.1997)

Conservationists have made a breakthrough in captive breeding techniques which secure the cannibalistic ladybird spider. Thought to be extinct in Britain, it was rediscovered in the 1980's on a single patch of heath land in Dorset. After clearing encroaching pine trees and rhododendrons, the number of adult spiders has soared to about 100. After removing a small number, they were bred with spiders from Denmark. The mother lays up to 80 eggs which, once hatched, eat their mother's regurgitated food, then her. (*Independent* 14.5.1997)

The British Isles has a new kind of bat. Scientists from Queen's University, Belfast, have discovered a colony of Nathusius's pipistrelle roosting in Northern Ireland. (*Independent* 16.5.1997)

Addiction to full-cream milk was blamed for the death of a 26 year old man who downed five pints of full-fat milk a day for 12 years. A post mortem found he died of a heart attack when his arteries became clogged with fatty deposits. (*Times* 16.5.1997)

Glaxo Wellcome and Zeneca, two of the UK's biggest pharmaceutical groups, are withholding all new business from the controversial animal testing company, Huntingdon Life Sciences, one of the UK's largest animal testing contract companies. Zeneca has used the laboratories for at least 15 years. This follows the Swedish drug giant Astra's decision not to use Huntingdon any longer. Existing work for all, including SmithKline, will continue. It follows a Channel 4 documentary which showed Huntingdon's employees kicking and hurling a beagle against a wall. The Home Office has since removed the licences of several technicians and begun a wider enquiry. (*Independent* 17.5.1997)

The number of vegetarians in Britain is growing by more than 5,000 a week, and more than 8 million in Britain have cut red meat completely from their diet, according to a survey. It concludes that 13,000 a week are removing red meat from their dinner tables, while more than half the population has reduced the amount

they eat. BSE was the primary reason for more than 20% of those questioned. The number of vegetarians is now 3 million. (*Independent* 20.5.1997)

Two Lakeland terriers which disappeared down a farm drainage pipe at Berkeley, Gloucestershire, have been rescued after being trapped underground for 3 days. They were found 6 feet down by farm workers using a digger. (*Times* 20.5.1997)

Plans to revoke the licence of Trafalgar Square's only authorised birdseed seller have been abandoned. Westminster City Council failed to persuade the National Heritage Department to sanction removal of the birds' main food supply as a way of reducing the square's pigeon population. (*Times* 20.5.1997)

The Government ordered its inspectors to shut down dirty slaughterhouses as part of a drive against too common lax standards in abattoirs linked to the spread of the E.coli virus and BSE. (*Independent* 21.5.1997)

New laws are to be introduced to crack down on the trade in rare and endangered animals, including bigger fines and heavier prison sentences for smugglers. (*Times* 23.5.1997)

Stroking a pet tarantula can ruin your eyesight. The most popular non-poisonous varieties are covered in hairs that cause chronic eye inflammation, and it can last years. (*Times* 23.5.1997)

The use of organophosphate dips for sheep could put farmers at risk from osteoporosis, according to New Scientist magazine. (*Independent* 27.5.1997)

Jamie MacLaren, 34, of Montague Road, North End, Portsmouth, and his brother Lee MacLaren, 35, of Braintree Road, Paulsgrove, Portsmouth, were fined £90,000 each after admitting taking and possessing rare birds' eggs in the Orkney Islands. They admitted 70 charges under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 when they appeared at Kirkwall Sheriff Court yesterday. They have 4 weeks to make arrangements to pay the fine. The eggs belonged to the hen harrier, red-throated diver, merlin, dunlin, curlew, fulmar and starling species - 17 were from specially protected birds. Only 20 pairs of the rare merlin and less than 120 pairs of the red-throated diver exist in Orkney. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, jail terms are not allowed, but they could go to prison for not paying their fines. (*Fareham & Gosport News* 28.5.1997)

The number of dairy farms has more than halved over the past 15 years, mainly due to the BSE crisis. There are now only 17,000 dairy farms left. (*BBC South* 28.5.1997)

Circuses with performing animals will remain outlawed from council parks and land in Ipswich. (*Ipswich Evening Star* 31.5.1997)

Brian Mortimer has been fined £3,000 for stealing eggs from the nest of a roseate tern, one of Britain's

rarest birds. He also admitted taking an egg from Anglesey and also taking a chough's egg from Holyhead, a golden eagle's egg from Skye and a hen harrier egg from the Trough of Bowland, Lancashire. (*Guardian* 4.6.1997)

The RSPCA is urging families going abroad not only to avoid coral reefs and resist buying souvenirs like coral and starfish but to avoid donkey and camel rides and visits to dolphinaria, bullfights and circuses. They also advise families not to have their photos taken with chimps and snakes. In its new code, Stop Overseas Suffering, the charity advises donating food or money to a local welfare society. (*Guardian* 4.6.1997)

French customs at Orly airport have seized more than 1,700 hippopotamus teeth, on route from Uganda to Hong Kong, from smugglers diversifying away from elephants tusks. (*Times* 6.6.1997)

The Government will this week announce tough new regulations to control the transport of live animals, and new powers to take trucks with the worst conditions off the road. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will specify maximum journey and minimum rest times for different species. The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order will create powers to disqualify transporters who seriously or persistently break the regulations. Vets will be given the ability to take action even if the abuses take place outside the UK. The new powers will come into force on 1st July, and will also insist on staff being properly trained and having practical experience in handling animals. (*Independent on Sunday* 8.6.1997)

Police are investigating the death of a cow forced to drink 4 bottles of whiskey at a Spanish village fiesta after men took the horned breeding cow to the fiesta for a mock bull fight. They had not obtained a permit. 13 men aged between 19 and 26 had been questioned. They face fines of up to £43,000 if convicted. (*Guardian* 9.6.1997)

Cases of food poisoning have rocketed by more than 400% in the past decade. 20 people died in the Scottish E.coli outbreak. 84,348 in England & Wales and a further 4,940 in Scotland were hit by food poisoning. And in a poll conducted for the Food & Drinks Federation, 6% of adults claimed to have felt unwell after eating. The survey found 35% of adults and 53% of children didn't wash their hands before touching food. (*Independent* 10.6.1997)

The Australian state of Queensland is hoping to persuade Nelson Mandela to back plans for an outback wilderness haven for rhinoceros. The aim is to combine the need to develop the state's vast savanna with efforts to save the rhino. (*Independent* 12.6.1997)

A ban on exporting severely depleted species of sharks may be imposed at the next CITES meeting. 139 countries backed a report by Traffic International, calling

for limits on shark fishing. 70 million sharks are killed a year. (*Times* 12.6.1997)

Environmental campaigners have warned that the seas are so contaminated that fish oil supplements could be becoming dangerous. Friends of the Earth issued a warning after Government scientists showed significant levels of the toxins dioxin and PCBs, which the World Health Organisation has warned can cause cancer, have been found in cod liver oil supplements. (*Independent* 16.6.1997)

The Government has given private backing to Labour MP Michael Foster's anti-hunting Bill, the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill designed to stop the hunting of foxes, deer, hare and mink with dogs. A referendum in Worcester has shown more than 70% in favour of a ban. (*Independent* 17.6.1997)

The actress Kim Basinger yesterday won a battle to save 36 beagle puppies from having bones in their legs broken to test a drug for osteoporosis in humans. Yamanouchi, the Japanese pharmaceutical company commissioned the experiments to be carried out at Huntingdon Life Sciences, based in Cambridge. Ms. Basinger had offered to adopt the puppies to save them from undergoing the tests after being told about the tests by the animal rights group PETA which she has supported in past animal rights campaigns. (*Independent* 21.6.1997)

The European ban on British beef might still be in place in a year's time, Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture said yesterday. He said there would be a fundamental shake-up of the MAFF but it wouldn't be abolished altogether. (*Independent* 23.6.1997)

The Israeli Supreme Court has ruled that minute-long wrestling bouts between man and crocodile are immoral because they cause the crocodile suffering for the sake of entertainment. (*Independent* 23.6.1997)

Drug company SmithKline Beecham said that late-stage trials of its new rheumatoid arthritis drug had stopped because of a potentially dangerous effect on the immune system of patients. It was one of the group's 10 blockbuster drugs with potential sales of around £300m. The side-effects may outweigh the benefits. (*Independent* 25.6.1997)

Vandals have blitzed Exeter with graffiti protesting at giant factory hen plants. The campaigners daubed slogans such as 'battery egg eaters are dirty collaborators' at more than half-a-dozen prominent locations. They were protesting at plans for two poultry sheds as big as a supermarket just outside the city at Kennford. (*Express & Echo* 25.6.1997)

Essex and Suffolk Water, who have banned hose-pipes, has given the go-ahead to use more than 150,000 gallons a day to save a handful of rare spiders. The scheme, originally blocked by the Environment Agency,

will pump water onto the Redgrave & Lopham fen in Suffolk, one of only two sites where Britain's biggest spider, the Great Raft spider survives. The driest conditions for 200 years has led to water levels dropping, threatening the breeding cycle of the spiders. (*Guardian* 26.6.1997)

Dutch customs have seized an illegal shipment of almost 20 tons of Vietnamese frozen frogs' legs, comprising the legs of more than 450,000 of the endangered and protected *Rana Tigerina* species. (*Independent* 11.7.1997)

The famed Oyster Bar at New York's Grand Central Station, which serves 1.8 million oysters every year, has been gutted by fire. (*Times* 1.7.1997)

McSpotlight, the web site opened in February 1996 during the McLibel trial to disclose juicy morsels about the trial, has been accessed more than 13 million times. Run by volunteers in 22 countries, it would be an immense task to track the authors and sue them. (*Independent* 2.7.1997)

Eating less fat, especially animal fat, truly does save lives, European researchers said today in a report in the *British Medical Journal*. A study found the healthier the diet, the lower the overall death rate. (*Independent* 4.7.1997)

A £300,000 scheme has been launched to revive salmon runs in the River Esk, North Yorkshire, and make banks more attractive for otters and bank voles. The salmon in the river have been declining for 30 years. (*Independent* 19.7.1997)

A British holiday maker, Derek White, 28, of Fareham, Hants., was gored by a bull at the San

Fermine festival in Pamplona, Spain. (*Independent* 10.7.1997)

Robert Layland, a race horse owner who subjected his thoroughbreds to cruelty and neglect, was jailed for 3 months yesterday and banned from keeping horses and dogs for the rest of his life. The officers of the Horses and Ponies Protection Association found 15 neglected horses and a yearling foal, and discovered the dead body of a horse under a pile of pallets. Layland, 62, of Newsholme, near Gisburn, Lancashire, admitted to offences of causing horses unnecessary suffering and was fined £200 and ordered to pay £10,000 compensation to the HAPPA. (*Daily Telegraph* 15.7.1997)

Anthony-Noel Kelly, 41, of Brixton, London, a tutor at the Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture has been charged with stealing human body parts for use in his sculpture exhibits. A former butcher and abattoir worker, Mr. Kelly used the body parts to create casts for anatomically correct silver-coated sculptures. (*Independent* 16.7.1997)

Two stag hunts yesterday failed to get a High Court order allowing them to continue hunting on National Trust land. Both hunts, the Quantock Staghounds and the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, will have to severely curtail their activities from 1st August. Both hunts used the land on 200 days a year, and said in evidence that hunting would cease if the courts did not intervene. The Trust made its decision to ban deer hunting on its land in April after a report by Sir Patrick Bateson that it was cruel and that the animals suffered severe and unnatural stress from being chased miles by hounds. The £20,000 costs were awarded against the two hunts. (*Guardian* 17.7.1997)



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Featured article to insert.

The original article seems to have got lost in the post so this article appears as an insert. You may have to use a magnifying glass to read it but at least the whole article fits on one side! Also, the added advantage of it being an insert is that it is easier to recycle!!

Press Office trials and tribulations.

By the time you read this the latest stage of Hampshire lunacy will be under way with my trial at Portsmouth Crown Court for alleged Conspiracy to Incite Criminal Damage and Arson between 1991 and 1996. Expected to last for at least two months the proceedings take place against the backdrop of Simon Russell, ex-SG Newsletter editor, being acquitted at last years trial, the three Green Anarchist editors out on bail pending appeal and the general editor of GA still waiting to apply for a separate trial from me! Bookies are rumoured to be offering odds on that Detective Supt. Desmond Thomas (Hampshire's answer to "Carry on Constable") will have a nervous breakdown in the witness box.

A (Wait)Rose by any other name...Like John Lewis?

Last November the Animal Liberation Front issued a statement that said if the John Lewis Partnership did not stop the pheasant shoots on its Hampshire estate then all John Lewis and Waitrose properties would be considered legitimate targets. So far, numerous windows have disappeared, £20,000 worth of damage was caused to lorries at the John Lewis depot in Stevenage and, at the time of writing this, a three and a half hour long attack by activists on the Leckford Abbas estate in Hampshire freed hundreds of pheasants and trashed nearly twenty rearing sheds. Meanwhile, the National Anti-Hunting Campaign continues its very active boycott campaign...

More Provo's emerge!

Last year's Provisional RSPCA (see previous issue) has been joined by the Provisional ALF which sent out hoax parcel bombs to twenty targets including Maggie Jennings, head of the RSPCA's Research Animals Dept, described as "a vivisectioner's lackey", and David Hammond who tried to rip off the Justice For Keith Mann Campaign (see current ALFSG Newsletter). Dave claims that what he did is legal. Well, so is vivisection! The remaining 18 recipients were all animal abusers, including Hillgrove Farm, Bernard Matthews, Colchester Zoo, the Roslin Institute, Huntingdon Life Sciences, a dog breeder....and the John Lewis estate in Hampshire. A claim from the Provisional ALF revealed that the hoax devices were video cassette boxes containing cat litter and a diagram showing how a real bomb could easily have been constructed instead. The statement said that devices sent after April will be viable ones.

Poetic Justice!

Our non-human brothers and sisters appear to have been undertaking a bit of direct action themselves recently.....the master of Tickham Hunt fell off his horse who promptly trampled him. Kent's air ambulance had to be called out.....a farmer at Higher Trebarveth in Cornwall died when several bulls crushed him against a shed wall.....ramblers crossing a farm in Derbyshire were chased by an ostrich who knocked one down before kicking and pecking him, ripping his anorak to shreds.....a person in Copenhagen choked to death after swallowing a live canary to impress friends.....one man died of a heart attack and twenty people were injured when a bull crashed through barriers at a Spanish bull fight near Valencia.....a large school of herring caught in a trawler's nets dived en masse to the ocean floor dragging the 63ft vessel down with them. Six crew members abandoned ship off the Norwegian coast.....and finally, the tiger who bit off the limb belonging to a Chipperfield's trainer must have been in a very radical group as the ARM was involved!

And Finally...

Actions at all levels are increasing as disgust over New Labour's broken promises, determination to close Hillgrove Farm and Huntingdon Life Sciences and anger at disgraceful prison sentences reach unprecedented heights. Compassion is not a crime, justice is not a crime, truth is not a crime. It is animal abuse itself that incites people to fight the obscenities of animal abuse.....how dare the State try to suppress our movement while protecting the evils of vivisection, animal farming, bloodsports and all the other horrors.

We can win, we must win and - fighting together - WE WILL WIN!

Robin Webb.