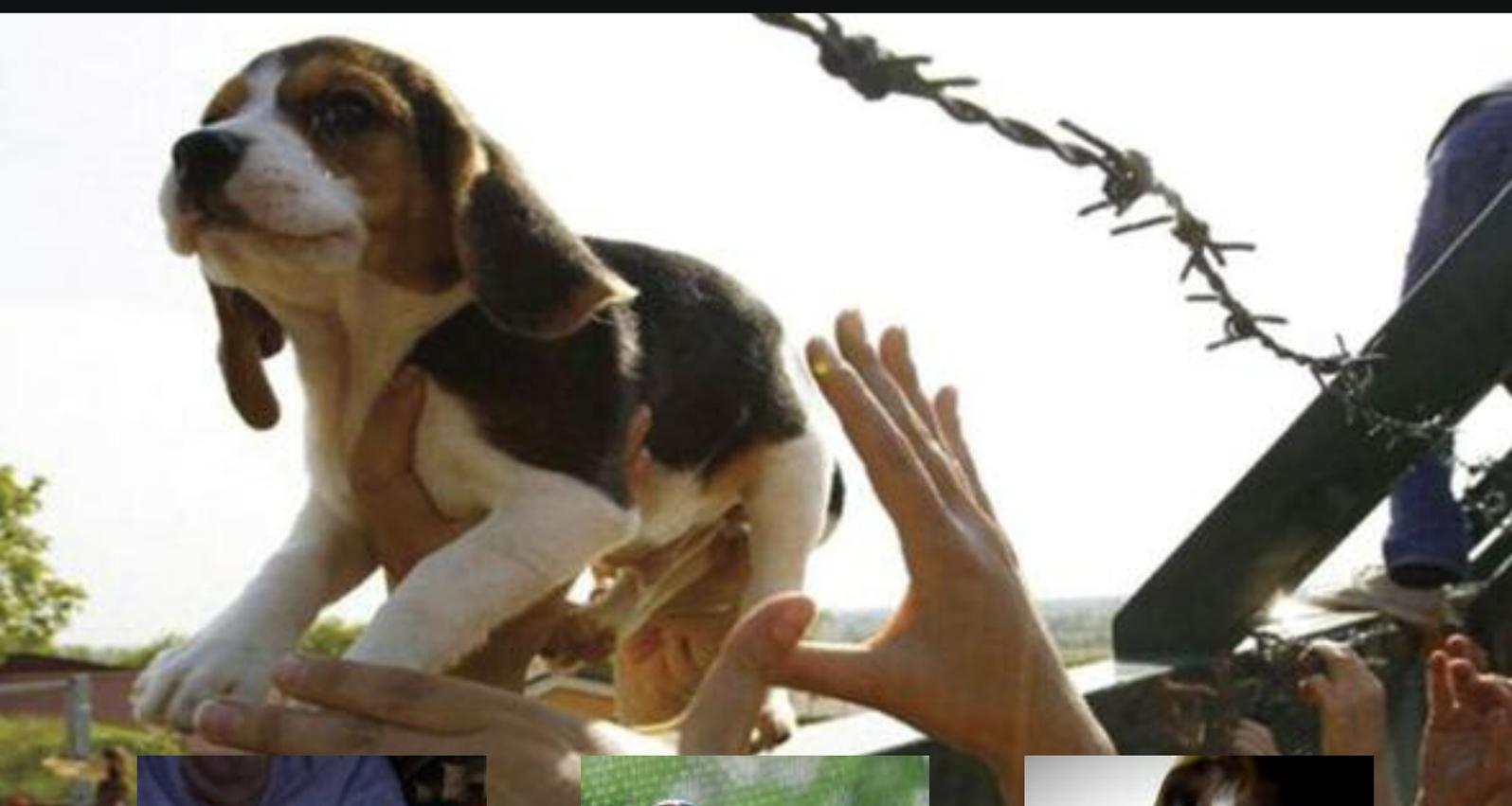


animal liberation front



supporters group



greenhill - beagle rescue
europe's largest slaughterhouse battle
prisoner letters
global actions

july 2012

www.alfsg.org.uk



Current prisoners

For up to date prisoner listings and prisoner news, go to our website at: www.alfsg.org.uk



Mel Broughton



Gavin Medd-Hall



Heather Nicholson



Luke Steel



Sarah Whitehead
just released



Walter Bond



Eric McDavid



Daniel McGowan



Steve Murphy

(Please remember some prisoners are not publicly listed above for various reasons - they will not be forgotten)



animal liberation



supporters group

front

inside

editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of the SG newsletter. It's 2012, and did you know it's now 30 years since the ALF Supporters Group was first formed in 1982? It's amazing to think how far we have come since those distant days.

Of course the role of the Supporters Group has changed much over the years. Back in 1982, the SG was also responsible for press and media work, explaining to the media why people take illegal direct action on behalf of animals.

For legal reasons, the SG had to restrict its activities to its core role of providing moral and financial support to those who end up in prison, and leave the publicity and media work to others.

We've come a long way in past 30 years. It's often said that the movement is not what it used to be, that things aren't as good as say 10 or 20 years ago, or in the 80's or the 90's. Of course people always look back to a "Golden Age", it's human nature. The people of 10 or 20 years ago were no doubt saying the same, looking back to an even earlier age.

Of course it could be that people are just doing things in different ways these days. And let's not forget also the huge amount of repression which we have had to endure in recent years which of course has an effect, in the short term at least.

And even if we were to accept that in this country the amount of activity is less now than before, that is to take a very narrow and UK-centred view.

Looking at the situation on a global scale, nobody can doubt that the movement is growing faster and bigger than ever, and moving into more and more countries, including places we wouldn't have imagined previously, such as Eastern Europe, South America and Asia. This has not happened by accident, it's part of a long term plan to internationalise the struggle which is now bearing fruit.

When we see just a few weeks ago in Italy, thousands marching on a beagle breeders and storming into the kennels to free the beagles, we are reminded of past scenes in the UK such as Consort Beagles in the 1990's, or Park Farm in the 1980's. In Italy as elsewhere it is the past struggles of activists in the UK which have provided the inspiration for others to take up the fight on behalf of the animals.

And what happened in Italy recently will no doubt be repeated in many other countries over the next 30 years. This movement is far from finished, we've hardly even started yet, the biggest and most important battles are yet to come.

So thanks to all of you who have supported the SG over the years, your continued help will be vital in enabling the Supporters Group going to provide moral, practical and financial help to all those who are incarcerated for trying to create a more compassionate and caring world.

about the ALF SG

The ALF SG's role is to support financially, practically and morally, those brave men and women who end up in prison as a result of their actions on behalf of animals. This is a vital part of the movement, and we in turn depend on our members and supporters to enable us to help the prisoners at a time when they are most in need.

If you wish to join the ALF SG you can use the form on the back cover of this newsletter or obtain more details from:

ALF SG ★ BM Box 1160 ★ London WC1N 3XX or
info@alfsg.org.uk ★ website: www.alfsg.org.uk

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disclaimer

The Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group is separate from the Animal Liberation Front and any other organisation involved in breaking the law. The ALF Supporters Group exists to support animal rights prisoners and to report news of direct action taken on behalf of animals.

The ALF SG has no prior knowledge of ALF actions and does not seek to incite others to take part in such actions. The ALF SG and those involved in this publication have no intention of encouraging anyone to break the law.

All information contained in this newsletter exists only for the purposes of information.



prisoners



Letter from Mel Broughton

I picked up a book recently called "The Litmus Test - Short Stories from Modern Science." The book contained fictionalised accounts of real scientific research considered worthy of note. One of the accounts was headed "Monkey See, Monkey Do" and was penned by an actor/writer. This was an interpretation of an actual experiment carried out very recently involving macaque monkeys. The experiment was set up to record the activity of a single neuron in the brain of a monkey when it reaches out for a peanut. By their own admission, the researchers state "it was routine, it had been carried out countless times before". One part of the penultimate paragraph of the fictionalised account of the experiment reads, "At the very least this solved the problem of Reece and his extreme male brain. The silly chump ended up having no brain at all, extreme or otherwise". Reece was one of the macaque monkeys involved in the experiment and clearly this jokey little aside relates to his killing and the subsequent dissection of his brain.

There are two other primates related to in this fictionalised account "affectionately" named Lucy and Diane by the writer. Here the author fantasises about the fate of these two individuals in the following manner; "as for the two of us left - Lucy and me - well, after the electrodes and four stainless steel retaining pins had been removed and the fur had grown back again, leaving just faint scars on our scalps, we were given a warm, dry, secure environment with a regular and adequate supply of food and water".

Recent times have seen a lessening of protection for laboratory animals and a strident, vociferous pro-animal research lobby seeking to dismantle all barriers to using animals as a means to any ends. Added to this there are now popular science writers/broadcasters and celebrity science wannabees willing to create a whole new genre of fiction to disneyfy the world of animal exploitation.

Equally the meat and dairy industries with the aid of a duplicitous media contrive to demean and disguise reality. Animals are presented as cartoon characters or mindless vessels of consumer products. Much effort and money is vested in creating a pretty picture of an ugly business. Our legal system also remains so closely wedded to the exploitation of our animal cousins that genuine shifts in understanding what animals experience and feel remain outside its deliberately limited field of views.

For animal rights advocates it remains a frustratingly difficult fight. And of course when a chance arises for a real legislative change for animals the goalposts are more often than not moved. This can and does sometimes result in a/r campaigners turning in on themselves or investing emotional energy on issues/arguments that have little or nothing to do with helping animals. A/r advocates can become stuck in ways of thinking that leave them adrift from trends and changes that could well prove crucial to achieving positive initiatives for animals. There needs to be a recognition that some campaigns are a dead end and detract energy and resources from others that could be a foot in the door.

It's because animal exploitation is so ingrained in society that animal rights campaigners are forced to deal with so much prejudice. And for the same reason it's imperative that a/r campaigners build bridges with those outside the protest core of the movement whose disciplines can add significant weight to the animal rights argument. Historically the a/r movement has ploughed its own furrow and pursued gains against animal abuse through



campaigns. Given the emergent nature of animal rights and the political landscape at the time it was an understandable position to take. However a/r thinking must evolve and take into account where it needs to go. The UK animal rights movement can pride itself in building an academic philosophy and grassroots activism that has introduced the concept of animal rights into the consciousness of people around the world. There is a need though to look intelligently and clearly at how a 21st century a/r movement not only survives but builds on its foundations to realise the ethical and legitimate goals of animal liberation.

The a/r movement should start by realising it needs to be more than a protest movement. Campaigns need to be more professional and that doesn't mean elitist or exclusive. Being as informed and presentable as possible is everyone's responsibility. Equally there needs to be a recognition that the a/r movement invests in teaching campaigns to be as conversant as possible with the most up to date thinking on animal awareness/intelligence. And far more effort into helping campaigners understand and negotiate the legal landscape that affects them and the animals that they speak for. Perhaps most importantly the a/r movement has to employ the expertise and knowledge of those whose work and understanding informs the debate about the changing status of animals as beings with minds and desires.

The majority of society is, if not physically or directly involved in the exploitation of animals, then certainly still economically and culturally enmeshed with it. At the same time it's also a fact that our knowledge of the complex nature of animal awareness/emotion and its obvious connection to the way animals feel, sense and negotiate their worlds is fastly expanding. It's surely time the a/r movement harnessed this knowledge and used it to best effect in seriously challenging the outdated and species prejudiced nature of current animal welfarism. It may mean some changes to the focus and nature of some campaigns and will undoubtedly enhance others. It could also allow other, until now unheard voices enter the animal rights debate. Above all else it could open new doors for a/r advocates to challenge animal abuse on new territory.

The fictionalised account of Reece, Diane and Lucy is a reminder that the suffering of animals can be manipulated to prettify or even disguise suffering. The media in general has embarked on what at times feels like an Orwellian exercise in "Doublespeak" to promote, excuse or normalise animal exploitation. This should give the a/r movement the necessary motivation to engage with those who are best qualified to help in redressing the balance.

Above all else the need to open up new avenues of campaigning is a necessity that the animals deserve and animal rights advocates can't ignore.

Mel



Sarah Whitehead

The end of June is in sight and hurtling towards me – that’s four years done and dusted. I cant wait to see a cat again.

I think i feel exactly the same as i did when i first went inside - angry at cruelty and injustice, desperate to save the world. Prison has given me some precious time to read and study but for me there’s been a struggle to deal with guilt about the effect on my loved ones and my absence from campaigning. I still can’t allow myself to think about what my animals have felt adjusting to a life without me - but thanks to amazing friends they have always been safe and dearly loved - sometimes i think i did them a favour!

It’s been an eye-opener to be one of the prison population, living with so many people i’d never have run into in my outside life. It makes me really appreciate my life, my health, my family and loved ones. I’ve really come to see what a huge task it is to get people to respect one another, let alone to care about animals and the environment. I do feel frustrated about the lack of interaction and interest in the world outside – all people think about in here is their own life and their release date. I guess they feel they shouldn’t be in here and have a “hard done by” attitude. I’ve never felt that. I pleaded guilty and prison is the consequence. Courts aren’t interested in “why” you do anything just “if”.

I have an enforced hostel stay and the usual strict conditions on release - it’s okay, this isn’t Syria or a laboratory. I’ll be able to walk in woodland and sit by the sea and eventually make choices and decisions for the future, unlike many, and for that i am grateful and humble.

Thank you to everyone for all your support over the past 4 years - thanks to the ALF SG, VPSG, ARPS, and all the people who have written and kept on with the fight, all those i know and those i don’t, Fighting against injustice is not a hobby - not one second is for enjoyment and never will be. It’s a necessity and a responsibility, driven by compassion and a determination to make something right. A human rights campaigner once said “washing one’s hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful , not to be neutral”. I actually believe that we are all one on earth - people, animals, nature - and that if we truly believed that, we would give worth and respect to each other and every living thing. Then things would really change.



My love and thanks from the bottom of my heart

Sarah xxx



Luke Steel

Dear supporters.

First of all i'd like to send my gratitude to each and every person who has shown their support and solidarity by inundating me with mail. My apologies to those to whom i haven't sent a response, but there has been just so much post!.

To get this part over and done with, i am in good health, being fed well, getting fit at the gym and educating myself further with ample books. However this is not a fight about myself, so let us focus on the real victims - the animals dying in this nation's sordid laboratories and the patients in need of effective treatments, not victorian research practices.

The media coverage of the last fortnight has really shown an industry on its knees as the blockade of animals for vivisection establishments strengthens and hits home.

As such, our progressive message of scientific reform has galvanised support and calls for predictive medical research are penetrating the corridors of higher government. Colin Blakemore and the likes are left relying on their mediocre, hyperbolic murmurings, reflecting their outdated training of over three decades past. They are the cart, while we are the Lamborghini.

Coming months are crucial for the anti-vivisection movement and modern medical advancement. We have severed the important supply network by ceasing the construction of new breeding establishments, halting the importation of animals and now it is time to place the final nail in the outdated vivisection coffin. Not only must we advocate the harbouring of industry practice which is in line with medical advancement to the last few airlines participating in the Heathrow trade, but move on to the final tier of focus.

I for one welcome the investment of £4 billion into medical research in this country. Such an investment must be applauded, but how dare it be squandered by the minority still within the archaic remit of vivisection.

Our nation is known for advancement in attitudes, so why should such a reputation be shadowed by medical hindrance entwined in animal suffering? Let us pathe the future of science, through becoming a global advocate of up-to-date research techniques.

We must demand from the British Government the abolition of vivisection and not rest until such is incorporated in legislation. Our demands are just, so let them be on the conscience of the minister for science, Mr Willetts, who must advocate modernisation through abolition.

yours in progression

Luke Steele





DOZENS OF BEAGLES FREED FROM HELL OF GREEN HILL

Saturday, April 28, Italy: This was a historic date for the animal liberation movement in Italy and across the world. At a march against the Green Hill beagle breeding establishment, dozens of activists stormed into the kennels in broad daylight and freed dozens of beagle dogs and puppies.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THESE DRAMATIC AND EMOTIONAL SCENES QUICKLY SPREAD VIA THE INTERNET AROUND THE WORLD, AND THE EVENTS WERE COVERED EXTENSIVELY ON ITALIAN TV AND IN THE PRESS, WHERE THE COVERAGE WAS ALMOST UNIVERSALLY SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS THE ACTIVISTS.



The march had been called to mark World Day for Animals in Laboratories, and saw over 1000 people march through the streets of Montichiari in northern Italy, and then on up to Green Hill Kennels, which is owned by the multinational laboratory animal breeder Marshall Farms.

As the marchers neared Green Hill, a large crowd of activists took an unexpected diversion and ran across some fields towards the holding pens. Police officers at the scene failed to prevent the crowds from reaching the fence, where some activists climbed over the barbed wire and entered the buildings. They soon emerged carrying puppies and adult beagles, and began passing them back over the high fence to the main crowd of activists on the other side.



Photographs of these dramatic and emotional scenes quickly spread via the internet around the world, and the events were covered extensively on Italian TV and in the press, where the coverage was almost universally sympathetic towards the activists.

The campaign against Green Hill beagle breeders began in April 2010 in response to an application by Marshall Farms for a massive extension to the facility, including plans for 5 massive underground warehouses, which would have seen the number of beagles bred on the site double to 5,000.



GREEN HILL WAS IN CONTRAVENTION OF REGIONAL LAWS RELATING TO DOG BREEDING FACILITIES, AND THAT IF THESE LAWS WERE IMPLEMENTED, GREEN HILL WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE.

A few weeks into the campaign, almost 3,000 people marched against the site on World Day 2010, up until then the biggest ever animal rights protest in the country. Within weeks of the protest, the local council in Montichiari announced it would refuse Green Hill's planning application, officially for environmental reasons, but doubtlessly due to the overwhelming pressure of the campaign.

The campaigners quickly used to impetus from this huge victory to press for the closure of Green Hill altogether. Successes included getting the local airport to refuse to handle any flights taking beagles from Green Hill, leaving Marshall Farms struggling to find transport to get the beagles to laboratories in other countries.

It also came to light that Green Hill was in contravention of regional laws relating to dog breeding facilities, and that if these laws were implemented, Green Hill would have to close. In September 2010, around 10,000 protesters marched through Rome to call on the Italian government to implement this law. It was a huge turnout, the largest ever animal rights protest outside the UK, and even here we haven't seen numbers like this for almost 20 years.

Despite this pressure, the national and regional government has not acted, and so, as we have seen, in April this year, the activists took matters into their own hands, marched en masse into the site and removed some of the beagles themselves.

As some of you may remember, this report is very reminiscent of scenes in the UK in 1997, when, during a large protest at Consort Beagles in Worcestershire at the height of the Barry Horne hunger strike campaign, activists broke through police lines and managed to carry away a number of beagles. A few weeks after this incident, Consort Beagles closed for good.

And the latest from Italy is that on June 30th, well over 10,000 have again marched in Rome to call for the closure of Green Hill, an even bigger turnout than the previous march in September 2010. The authorities had no doubt hoped that this campaign would go away, but this is clearly not going to happen. Plans are in place to step up the campaign, including to set up a camp directly outside Green Hill.

All over the world the animal rights/liberation movement is continuing to grow and to make progress. Campaigners in Italy are showing the way, and they are providing an inspiration to other activists in many other countries to continue the struggle for freedom and justice.



compassionate people
on every continent -
the movement and
struggle continues
to grow...



global actions

★ NOVEMBER



November 24 USA -
16 TURKEYS, 2 GEESE RESCUED
IN VERMONT



November 30 Czech Republic -
SLOGANS PAINTED AT PIG FARM -
FIGHT SPECIESISM, GO VEGAN!



December 2 Greece - STORE
VANDALISED TO PROTEST ZOO
SPONSORSHIP

★ DECEMBER



November 26 Italy - RED PAINT
THROWN ON FUR SHOP,
WINDOWS SMASHED

November 25 Czech Republic - MEAT
ADVERTISEMENTS PAINTED WITH
SLOGANS

November 26 Italy - FUR SHOP &
DELICATESSEN PAINTED

November 28 Chile - NOISE BOMB
DISRUPTS CIRCUS

November 29 Germany - HUNTING
TOWERS DEMOLISHED - DAMAGES
AROUND €6000

November 30 UK - ANTI-FUR PAINT
ATTACK ON BEYOND RETRO

December 1 USA - PAINT ATTACK AT
STORE SELLING DEAD ANIMAL
"CURIOSITIES"



December 8 Chile - OPEN RESCUE
OF TWO PIGS



November 27 Sweden - STORE
STOPS SELLING FUR AFTER
SLOGANS SPRAYPAINTED



December 6 New Zealand -
ACTIVISTS RESCUE CALF, PIGLETS
AND HENS



December 6 New Zealand -
ACTIVISTS RESCUE CALF, PIGLETS
AND HENS



December 12 Germany - FIRE DESTROYS FACTORY FARM UNDER CONSTRUCTION

December 1 Russia - ALF TARGETS VEHICLES IN HUNTING RESORT

December 2 Sweden - ELF TORCH SUV

December 3 Mexico - CIRCUS VEHICLES HIT WITH PAINT BOMBS, SLOGANS SPRAYED

December 4 UK - AIR FRANCE ADVERTS PAINTBOMBED

December 7 Sweden - STORE STOPS SELLING FUR AFTER PAINT AND GLUE ATTACK

December 9 Finland - CAR BELONGING TO ASTRAZENECA BOSS DESTROYED

December 10 UK - POULTRY LIBERATION FRONT LIBERATE HUNDREDS OF HENS AND TURKEYS

December 10 Canada - HOME OF FUR SHOP OWNER COVERED IN PAINT

December 11 Sweden - FASHION CHAIN GOES FUR-FREE AFTER PAINT ATTACK

December 13 Sweden - MCMURDER ADS TAKEN DOWN

December 14 Sweden - CAR SABOTAGED AT HOME OF BUTCHER SHOP OWNER

December 16 - Sweden ACTION AGAINST FUR

December 18 Sweden - FUR HATS, COATS DESTROYED WITH INK

December 27 USA - BLACK FAXES FOR HLS SUPPLIERS

December 29 Spain - RABBITS LIBERATED FROM FARM

December 31 USA - ATTACK ON PROPERTY OF ASTRAZENECA SHAREHOLDER

★ JANUARY

January 2 Sweden - HOAX BOMB AT FUR DEALER

January 3 Ireland - VEHICLE SABOTAGED AT HUNT CLUB

January 4 Czech Republic -CHRISTMAS EVE VISIT TO PIG FARM



January 7 France - HUNTING SEATS DESTROYED



December 15 Czech Republic - MEAT ADVERTISEMENTS PAINTED RED



December 26 France - BUTCHER SHOP PAINTED WITH SLOGANS



December 15 Italy - 46 HENS RESCUED BY ALF



December 28 Sweden - MEAT TRUCK SABOTAGED



January 9 USA - 14 CATTLE TRUCKS GO UP IN FLAMES



January 8 Spain - SLOGANS
PAINTED ON BULLRING



January 19 Netherlands - 52
CHICKENS RESCUED FROM
NIGHTMARE



January 8 Spain - SLOGANS
PAINTED ON BULLRING



January 25 France - CIRCUS
POSTERS DEFACTED



January 13 Sweden - 7 WINDOWS
SMASHED AT STORE SELLING FUR

January 9 Germany - BUTCHER SHOP
COVERED IN RED PAINT

January 12 Sweden - ANOTHER
EXCAVATOR MADE HARMLESS

January 17 USA - LOCKS GLUED AT
"SUSTAINABLE" BUTCHER SHOP

January 18 UK - SUPPLIER TO HARLAN
BEAGLE BREEDERS VANDALIZED

January 20 Italy - FUR FARM RAIDED,
1500 MINK FREED

January 22 UK - TURKEYS RIDE TRAIN
TO FREEDOM

January 24 UK - EIGHT TURKEYS
SAVED FROM FARM

January 25 UK - LOCKS GLUED,
SLOGANS PAINTED AT VIVISECTION
SUPPLIER

January 26 UK - ALF PAY ANOTHER
VISIT TO VIVISECTION SUPPLIER

January 4 Italy - HUNTERS' CARS
VANDALIZED

January 5 Sweden - WINDOWS AT FUR
SELLER PAINTED RED

January 6 Italy - BURGER KING SET ON
FIRE

January 6 Sweden - SLOGANS
PAINTED AT FUR SELLERS

January 27 Italy - VANDALISM AT
SPORT FISHING CENTER

January 28 - UK WINDOWS SMASHED
HARLAN BREEDER SUPPLIER

January 31 Croatia - TUNA FARM
RAIDED, NETS CUT

★ FEBRUARY

February 1 Germany - BUTCHER
SHOPS PAINTED RED

February 13 Italy - ANIMAL CIRCUS
PROPERTY DAMAGED



February 5 Chile - NINE CHICKENS
RESCUED FROM DEATH

February 21 Russia - CELL PHONE
TOWERS DAMAGED AT
HUNTING/FISHING SITE

February 22 Sweden - SABOTAGE AT
MCMURDER RESTAURANTS

February 23 UK - NEW HLS SUPPLIER
VANDALISED

February 25 Spain - EGG TRUCK
TORCHED

February 27 UK - TWO PIGLETS
LIBERATED

February 29 UK - TRAPS, SNARES
DESTROYED

★ MARCH

March 1 UK - "BADGER KILLERS"
PAINTED AT PRO-CULL ORGANIZATION

March 2 Spain - 11 RABBITS FREED
FROM FARM (DELAYED REPORT)

March 6 Sweden - MINK FREED,
BREEDING CARDS DESTROYED AT
NOTORIOUS FUR FARM

March 11 Canada - ANOTHER MESS TO
CLEAN UP FOR FUR STORE OWNER

March 13 Australia - EQUIPMENT
DAMAGED AT EGG FACTORY FARM



March 12 Italy - CHICKENS
RESCUED, RESEARCH FARM
DESTROYED (DELAYED REPORT)

March 15 Spain - ACTIVISTS TARGET
BULLRING, HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

March 16 USA - DOZENS OF
PHEASANTS FREED BY THE ALF

March 24 Ireland - HUNT VEHICLES
VANDALIZED

March 25 Italy - SPORT FISHING CLUB
SABOTAGED

March 26 Germany - FUR RETAILER
SPRAY-PAINTED

March 27 Italy - ABUSED PUPPY
RESCUED



March 20 Czech Republic - FUR
SHOP PAINTED



April 12 USA - HUNTING CENTRE
DEMOLISHED

★ APRIL

April 3 Russia - FOREST DEFENSE

April 6 Italy - HENS FREED FROM
FACTORY FARM

April 7 USA - CHICKENS RESCUED,
"EVERY LIFE COUNTS"

April 17 UK - ZIPPOS ANIMAL CIRCUS
PROPERTY ATTACKED



April 30 Italy - PROTEST GOES
VERY WELL; 30 BEAGLES
RESCUED



April 16 France - FIRE DESTROYS
HUNTING CLUB

April 19 Germany - FUR SHOP PAINTED

April 23 UK - BUTCHER'S VAN
VANDALIZED

April 29, 2012 - OPEN RESCUE OF 10
HENS



April 16 France - FIRE DESTROYS
HUNTING CLUB





Activists Battle to Stop Eu

“Despite the eviction of the occupation, resistance to the slaughterhouse continued, with solidarity protests in many other parts of Germany and beyond.”



In the early hours of December 5, German ALF activists caused serious damage to a nearly completed but still empty broiler farm in Schnega (Lower Saxony). According to police, the fire started in several different places. Damage was estimated at €50,000.

This was the fourth time in just 18 months in this area of Lower Saxony that a broiler farm under construction has been targeted in an arson attack. The new farms are being constructed to supply animals to a new, massive slaughterhouse in Wietze which, if it is built, will be the largest poultry slaughterhouse in Europe, killing over 2.5 million animals each week.



Resistance to the planned slaughterhouse first hit the headlines in May 2010 when a group of activists invaded and occupied the site of the planned slaughterhouse and set up a permanent squat to physically prevent the plant from being built. Over the next few months the activists mobilised resistance to the project in the local area, while at the same time using the space as a resource centre to develop a way of life free of hierarchies, offering a platform where discussions, networking, skillsharing and protest actions could be organised.

While the occupation prevented any further building work on the slaughterhouse, in the surrounding area work was proceeding to build a series of huge broiler factory farms which were intended to supply the demand for the millions of animal victims which would

be needed for the planned slaughterhouse.

On the night of July 29th, 2010 one such poultry factory farm under construction in nearby Sprötze was targeted and completely destroyed in an arson attack. The entire building collapsed, with damages estimated at €500,000.

The arson attack came just one day before the beginning of a very successful week of protest organised by those occupying the site. The campaign was growing strong, and activists were coming to the site from many areas of Germany and other countries to support the occupation.

On 11th August, just 3 days after the week of protest, the authorities moved against the campaign, when police attacked the squat to remove the protesters. Despite the huge numbers of police involved, it took about 12 hours to evict all the activists, many of whom were chained and locked on in various ways, including one chained to a caravan buried underground.

Despite the eviction of the occupation, resistance to the slaughterhouse continued, with solidarity protests in many other parts of Germany and beyond.

On 16th July 2011, activists burned down another broiler factory farm under construction in the area, between the towns of Alvesse and Üfingen. In a communique claiming the action on behalf of the ALF, the activists stated: “Legal protests, such as a



ropes Biggest Slaughterhouse



squat, could not stop the construction.

The most effective way to stop the murder before it starts was to burn down the factory farm.... We think that actions like this are necessary. Everyone should think about which action is the best, and everyone should take care that no living being is hurt by any action."

Three months later in October 2011, in an e-mail sent to the German Press Agency, the ALF claimed responsibility for fires that severely damaged yet another broiler farm under construction in the town of Mehrum (Peine). In the e-mail the ALF warned: "To all farmers we advise: Stay away from factory farms! They burn easily...."

The most recent arson attack came just 3 months later in December in Schnega, once again the factory farm was almost built but was still empty, and damages were put at 50,000 Euros.

Other forms of protest and direct action have also continued to keep the campaign going. In May 2012 a group of activists blockaded an animal transport, four activists stopped the truck, while eight others climbed onto the roof and hung down banners. Despite police efforts, it took around 8 hours to remove the activists, during which time the site was effectively blockaded.

Meanwhile there are still legal obstacles the company has to clear before it can go ahead and build the slaughterhouse. The latest hearing on June 29th 2012 took place at the Administrative Court in Lüneburg, where campaigners raised objections to the slaughterhouse on a number of issues, including excessive noise, pollution emissions, bacterial contamination and interestingly, inadequate fire protection.

Prior to the hearing activists held a protest at the entrance of the court holding banners bearing the inscriptions "animals free instead of cruelty" and "against-cages and prisons - freedom for people and animals" and also drew slogans in chalk on the pavement in front of the entrance, and distributed flyers.

After two hours the hearing was closed, and the court announced it would give in its verdict two weeks. But whatever the court decides, it's clear that the activists will continue the campaign to stop the building of Europe's largest poultry slaughterhouse in Wietze.

For more about the campaign see the website <http://antiindustryfarm.blogspot.de/>





Show your support
for those who give
their freedom



contact

Write to UK animal rights prisoners via email

Did you know that it is possible to write to all current AR prisoners in the UK via the "emailprisoner" service for just 25p per letter? It's cheaper, quicker and more convenient than conventional mail. Most UK prisons are either part of the scheme or are set to join in the near future. You have to pay in advance and register with an email address and password. It's a really great way to keep our comrades in touch with the outside world. For example, if you see some news online or in an email, you can just copy and paste the text into an email and send it directly to the prisoner (no attachments though), with some news of your own perhaps? Or why not put a few stories and some news together, as you get 2,500 characters per email.

For more details please see:
www.emailprisoner.com/

Writing to prisoners

We live in a world where profit and property are valued over life and compassion, where those who try to stop suffering are seen as criminals and terrorists because they threaten the economic system and the status quo.

As long as this continues to be the case, it is vital we support those activists who make the ultimate sacrifice. Receiving letters from the outside helps to stop these prisoners feeling isolated and other prisoners are always amazed at the amount of mail animal rights prisoners receive. When you first start up correspondence with a prisoner, try not to ask specific questions, so prisoners don't feel under pressure to give a response.

Please don't feel offended if you don't get a reply, or if a reply is a long time coming, as animal rights prisoners often receive large amounts of mail. They also frequently have ongoing legal matters to deal with, which can be a lengthy process. Consideration must be given to the fact that prisoners may not have time and funds or that they may not feel like writing.

Keep letters positive, talk about what is going on in your daily life or just send a bright card with a short note or a favourite quote. You can buy small packets of cards from many stationers and card shops which are really useful for keeping in touch with the prisoners. They are all very much appreciated and don't forget to send them an SAE. Thank you for your support!

Cheques & Postal Orders

Please note that details of who the cheques/POs should be made payable to are listed. The prisoner's name and number should be printed clearly on the back of the cheque/PO.

Please also include a Stamped Addressed Envelope (SAE) for the prisoner to acknowledge receipt, and indicate in your letter that you have done so. Please do not mention anything sensitive or illegal as mail will be read by prison staff.

legacies

There are many ways to help us continue our work, and remembering us in your will is one such way. If you feel you would like to leave us with a donation or sum of money, please consult your solicitor. The following statement can be used as a guide:

" I BEQUEATH TO THE ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT SUPPORTERS GROUP
PRESENTLY AT BCM 1160, LONDON WC1N 3XX,
THE SUM OF, AND DECLARE THAT THE RECEIPT OF
THE TREASURER OR OTHER AUTHORISED OFFICER OF THE SAID SOCIETY
SHALL BE GOOD AND SUFFICIENT DISCHARGE OF SUCH LEGACY. "



uk prisoners

Mel Broughton (A3892AE)

HMP Bullingdon, PO Box 50, Oxford OX25 1WD.

Mel is serving 10 years for conspiracy to commit arson in connection with the campaign against animals experiments at Oxford University.

Birthday: 5th July

You can email using: www.emailaprisoner.com

Gavin Medd-Hall (A3624AD)

HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX

In January 2009 Gavin was sentenced to 8 years conspiracy to blackmail in connection with the campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences. (One of the UK SHAC 7)

Birthday: 20th March

Visit Gavin's support website at:
www.myspace.com/supportgavin

What you can send: stamps (12 in letter); Self-addressed envelopes, cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Headquarters' with Gavin's name and number and sender's details on reverse. (Please remember that Gavin has poor eyesight and will appreciate if you write in clear, large writing). Also you can email using: www.emailaprisoner.com

Heather Nicholson (A3158AJ)

C1-01, HMP Send, Ripley Road, Send, Surrey, GU23 7LJ

In January 2009 Heather was sentenced to 11 years in relation to charges in connection with the campaign against animal experiments by Huntingdon Life Sciences

Birthday: 30th January

What you can send: Cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMPS', Write Heather's name and number on the back. Stamps & an SAE. Also stationery and blank cards, no parcels. Also you can email using: www.emailaprisoner.com

Luke Steele (A5023CK)

HMP Birmingham, Winson Green Road, Birmingham, B18 4AS

Luke is remanded in custody awaiting trial after allegedly breaking his bail conditions in connection with alleged offences against Harlan.

Birthday: 16th October

Sarah Whitehead (A8369CE)

Sarah has now been released, see her letter elsewhere in this newsletter where she sends her thanks and appreciation for all the support she has received during her sentence.

Sarah was sentenced to 6 years for conspiracy to blackmail in connection with the campaign against animal experiments by Huntingdon Life Sciences. Sarah had been in prison since 30th June 2008, after being sentenced previously to two years for removing a beagle from a garden where it was being abused.

international prisoners

Mexico

Adrian Magdaleno Gonzales

A Mexican university student aged 21, serving 7 years 11 months at the Reclusorio Norte del Distrito Federal Prison in Mexico for various offences in connection with Earth and Animal liberation struggles.

For more information or to send letters of support, email his support at: libertadparaadrian@hushmail.me

Support site: <http://grupohastaelfinal.wordpress.com>

Sweden

Viktor Padellaro

Viktor was sentenced to 3 years and 6 months for arson at a McDonald's, for smashing windows at a restaurant, and for sending allegedly threatening.

Emails of support to: S.GBG.VEGAN@gmail.com

Birthday: 27th December

Note: We are aware of Viktor's past links to fascist groups, however he has been listed as he released a statement in which he expresses shame at his former association with fascists and condemns all forms of oppression.

USA

Walter Bond, 37096-013

USP Marion CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion IL 62959, USA

Walter is serving a total of 12 years in connection with ALF arson attacks in Colorado and Utah. Support page: www.SupportWalter.org

Birthday: 16th April

Jordan Cade Halliday #15922-081

FCI La Tuna, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 3000, Anthony, TX 88021, USA

Jordan is serving a 10-month prison sentence for criminal contempt of court, for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury investigating fur farm raids in Utah.

Birthday, 11th August

Letters for Jordan can also be sent to xWriteJordan@gmail.com and they will be forwarded to him. Support website: www.supportjordan.org

Marie Jeanette Mason, 04672-061

FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.

Marie was sentenced on 5th February 2009 to an outrageous 21 years and 10 months imprisonment for ELF/ALF actions. According to the BOP inmate locator, Marie Mason is at the Federal Medical Center in Fort Worth. Although rumors continue to swirl, there is no confirmation at this time as to where Marie will end up. Marie is vegan. Please drop Marie a line. If you are writing a longer letter, we recommend you photocopy it, in case she is moved again by the time it arrives. This way you can resend it again later.

Support sites. <http://freemarie.org/> and <http://supportmariemason.org>

Birthday: 26th January

Eric McDavid, 16209-097

FCI Terminal Island, Federal Correctional Institution, PO BOX 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731, USA.

Eric was sentenced to just under 20 years imprisonment after being caught up in an FBI sting operation, allegedly planning to carry out arson attacks.

Birthday: 7th October

www.supporteric.org

Daniel McGowan, 63794-053

FCI Terre Haute - CMU, P.O. Box 33, Terre Haute, IN 47808, USA.

Sentenced to seven years imprisonment for his part in two arsons and his role in an ELF/ALF conspiracy.

Birthday: 2nd May

support site: www.supportdaniel.org

Steve Murphy, 39013-177

FCI Beaumont Medium, Federal Correctional Institution, PO Box 26040, Beaumont, TX 77720, USA

Steve was sentenced to 5 years in connection with a 2006 E.L.F. action in Pasadena, CA. Steve is also an animal rights activist and vegan.

Birthday: 3rd September

Support site: <http://supportsteve.org/>

Justin Solondz, 98291-011

FDC SEATAC, Federal Detention Centre, P.O. Box 13900, Seattle, WA 98198, USA.

Justin was sentenced to 7 Years in prison for an arson offence committed in 2001, after being on the run. He was accused of actions under the Earth Liberation Front/Animal Liberation Front.

Birthday: 3rd October





merchandise

T-shirt £10 inc postage S M L XL

Hoody £20 inc postage S M L XL

Fist and paw badge in black/chrome

Activist & liberated dog badge gilt/black/white

Classic circle ALF badge - available in 5 colours

black/white black/ chrome

black/red black/purple black/green.



The badges are all quality enamel badges with proper pin fixings and are only £2.50 inc postage.

Name:

Address:.....

.....

Email:..... Total Cost £..... Donation £.....

Please make cheques/POs made out to: 'ALF SG' and send to:

ALF SG, BM Box 1160, London WC1N 3XX

become an alfsg supporter

You can help us continue our work for animal liberation prisoners by joining us as a supporter. Just fill out the form below and post it to:

ALF Supporters Group, BM Box 1160, London, WC1N 3XX.

YES! I would like to support the ALF SG and receive the newsletter:

- £2 per month - tick here to receive a Standing Order Form
- £24 per year - please enclose a cheque payable to 'ALF Supporters Group'

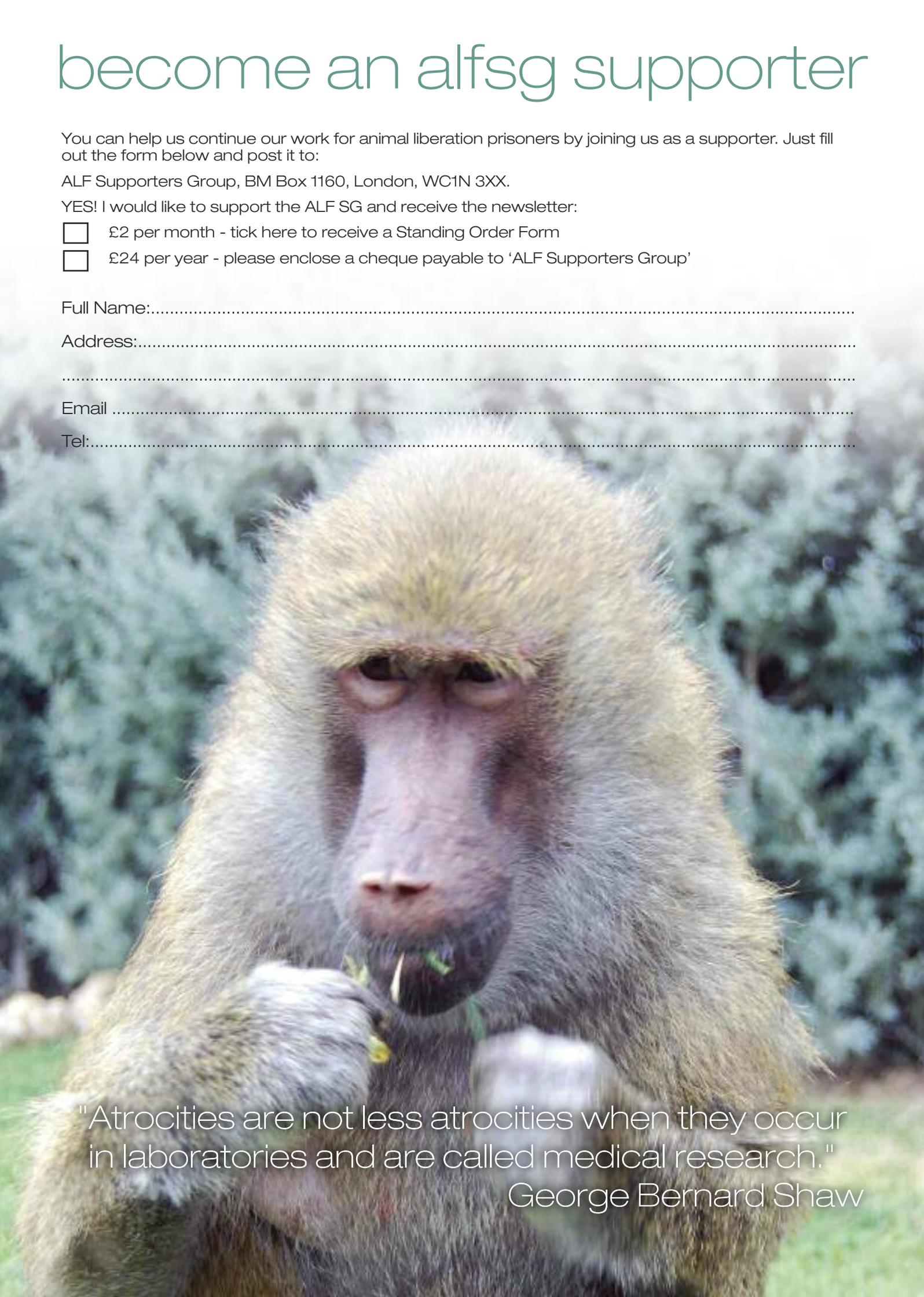
Full Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Email

Tel:.....



"Atrocities are not less atrocities when they occur in laboratories and are called medical research."

George Bernard Shaw