

radical animal liberation news and views from aotearoa

\$3 a copy; free for those kidnapped by the state

Liberate

autumn 2008, vol 1



Layer Hen Code Changes: How they effect your underground investigation



Pig liberation



Suzanne Gattai



Open rescue

see you in the streets

April

19th Saturday

Save the Beagles and SAFE Walk for the Animals in Napier Town Centre

21st Monday to 27th Sunday: World Lab Animal Week

24th Thursday: World Lab Animal Day

25th Friday – ANZAC Day: Demonstrations through out Aotearoa, stay tuned to Indymedia for details. www.indymedia.org.nz

25th Friday to 27th Sunday: Anarcha-Feminist Gathering, Otautahi. If you would like more details please email anarch-fem@live.com

May

1st Thursday – May Day : Demonstrations through out Aotearoa, stay tuned to Indymedia for details. www.indymedia.org.nz

3rd Saturday: Duck Hunting Season Opens through out Aotearoa.

7th Wednesday

Indymedia Screening; this months focus is animal rights. Kfm on K'Road (Auckland) @ 7 pm. Entry by Koha.

June

27th Friday

ANZCCART Benefit Gig (R18), Kings Arms, Auckland. For more details contact Auckland Animal Action on aucklandanimalaction@yahoo.com.

28th Saturday

ANZCCART Benefit Gig (All Ages), venue to be confirmed, Auckland. For more details contact Auckland Animal Action on aucklandanimalaction@yahoo.com.

29th Sunday

ANZCCART (see page 22)
1.30pm: Welcome
4.45pm: Wine and Cheese

30th Monday

ANZCCART
12.15pm: Lunch-time Demo
1.45pm: Should we

be giving attention to justifying animals in science?

3.30pm: Grief Management for those involved in Euthanasing Animals

6.45pm: Conference Dinner

July

1st Tuesday

ANZCCART Last Day
Demos for this day will be advised at a later date

Please note there will be other events planned through out ANZCCART stay tuned for these.

Regular Events:

Auckland Animal Action Meetings - First Sunday of every month at the Vegetarian Cafe, 50 High Street Auckland Central

Indymedia Screening Auckland - First Wednesday of every month, for more details stay tuned to Indymedia.

Mission Statement

Liberate is a magazine written by and for the animal liberation community in Aotearoa. It aims to encourage discussion amongst the community about animal abuse issues, strategies, tactics and goals. In no way does Liberate aim to create a homogenised centralised approach to animal liberation but rather we wish to acknowledge our diversity of thought, action and collective experience, knowledge and passion.

We acknowledge that industrialised animal abuse is the result of an oppressive global regime that puts power and profit before the preservation of life, whether it be that of an animal, human or mother earth. This system not only encourages and legitimises animal abuse but also racism, sexism, homophobia, colonisation and environmental destruction.

Liberate draws links between the struggle for animal liberation and the liberation of our communities and mother earth with the aim of creating solidarity between movements. One Struggle, One Fight!

With Love and Solidarity

The Liberate Editorial Collective



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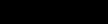
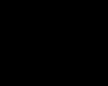
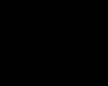


On January 1st 2008 changes to the Animal Welfare Act Codes of Welfare for Layer Hens came into effect. For an outline of these changes and to see how this could effect your battery hen farm investigation check out page 18.



The festive season saw relief from suffering for battery hens fortunate enough to be visited by both Open Rescue and the Animal Liberation Front. For their story and other recent rescues see Updates from Underground on page 16.





Kia ora

So here we are, the first volume of *Liberate*. YAY. It feels pretty weird to have actually completed this after flippantly deciding to undertake this new project and not really knowing what it entailed. Thank you to all those who sent us contributions and well wishes; we could not have done it without you.



Over the last year or so the passion, drive and action of the animal liberation movement in Aotearoa has been dwindling. Personal issues, increased repression and burn out seem like key contributors. Bitchiness, dis-organisation, a lack of enthusiasm and division are getting in the way of animal liberation. The Meat Conference last year highlighted this. We are a movement that has lost its way and it is time we get ourselves out of this rut.



Right now animals are imprisoned, suffering and dying; they have no one but us. It would do us (and them) well to remember that. It is time to sort our shit out and remember who the struggle is about.

We hope that *Liberate* can help to re-direct our energy into standing along side each other in the struggle for the animal liberation and that we can re-ignite some sense of community.

For freedom and liberation.

The *Liberate* Editorial Collective



Submissions

Please send us your submissions, thoughts, art and/or ideas. We will try not to edit your writing but it may from time to time be necessary if it is too long.

Maximum Length for Submissions:

Features (A3): 1,300 words

Opinions: 500 words

Letters: 100 – 250 words

Deadline for next issue: 1st August

Please send all submissions to liberate@yahoo.co.nz or via snail mail to *Liberate*, PO BOX 7523, Wellesley Street, Auckland.

Subscriptions

If you would like to have a copy of *Liberate* mailed to you every six months you can subscribe for \$8 per year; this includes postage. Please send subscription requests to liberate@yahoo.co.nz or via snail mail to *Liberate*, PO BOX 7523, Wellesley Street, Auckland.

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This section would usually be reserved for 'Letters to the Community, however as this is the first issue we have none. So here is a poem and reminder of who we are fighting for.



What is scary in this world is
oppression and injustice

When people hurt people, animals
and nature

What is beautiful in this world is
resistance

When people say 'enough is enough' and act

Oppression and injustice are
everywhere

But so is resistance

Because there are people who know that if you fight you
might lose

But if you don't fight you've
already lost

a poem by Niklas Ansth



SUZANNE CAREY

'actions speak louder than words'

September 10 1973 - February 24 2008



A life cut short, so much left to give
yet so many things to remind me of you
so many hearts set free

when I see the exultant smile
on the face of a dog, once beaten and chained
now running through fields, loved at last

when I hear the soft sounds
made by hens in the evening
fully feathered now, eyes shining with health

when I feel the soft paws, gentle purr
of a kitten, unwanted, abandoned
now with a loving home for life

and when I speak to others
voice strong and certain
spreading your message of love and compas-
sion

these are the things that remind me of you

my heart full of grief, shell-shocked by the
loss

yet blessed am I
to have known your friendship

though the world may seem bleak today
time will help to heal the pain
and I will always be a better person

for knowing you
we live in a better world
for having you
and we will never forget
the gifts you gave us.

Poem by Emma 4 Suzy

It was hard to know how to go about writing this article and we realised that we actually couldn't do one. Many of us have shared different experiences with Suzy and to limit this to a purely Animal Action perspective would be to disrespect what other have shared with Suzy but also the other aspects of Suzy's life. What follows are peoples thoughts, feelings and memories of Suzy, these have been taken from Indymedia and some have been emailed to AAA.

Communiqué from Auckland Animal Action . . .

In the early hours of Sunday the 24th of February our little Suzy gained entry to another world and sadly left ours.

For nearly ten years, Suzy has been an active and essential component of Auckland Animal Action, working tirelessly for the animals. There was not a day that she was not plotting, checking things out or taking action. She truly understood the saying 'actions speak louder than words' and dedicated her life to animal liberation.

Where many people limit their involvement to group organising, stalls and demonstrations Suzy always took it that step further. Not only was she always bringing home injured animals she had found but she would always be keeping tabs on animals in the neighbourhood who seemed to be being mistreated. She was always on hand to step in and find them a new home. And then of course there were the seemingly endless trips into the country driving around just to see what was happening. On the odd occasion these would last days rather than hours.

While she has been unwell for years Suzy never let this get the better of her and pushed

Suzy was a deeply compassionate person and a tireless struggler against cruelty and injustice.

Thanks suzy for all of your hard work. To all of her family, suzy was a much loved and treasured member of our community. in our next action, she will be remembered.



Locked on the door at Hartley's as part of the Fur Free Auckland campaign in 2003. How else would Suzy spend a Saturday with friends?

herself to do all that she could. It has only been in the last year that she had been forced to take a less involved role in AAA actions. It should be said that she was still highly involved in organising and even when she was at her mum's supposed to be resting, there would always be a number of text messages and phone calls at all hours of the day with instructions, ideas and opinions. It is safe to say Suzy could not sit still for long.

Some of us in AAA were also lucky enough to not only call Suzy our comrade but also our friend. Those of you who know Suzy will know that this is not an easy feat, but when you finally managed to get her to open up she was so much fun. Hanging out with Suzy there was nothing but laughs, oh and lots of food.

Suzy was also a mother to four beautiful puppies all of whom owe their lives to Suzy. Abbey, Zoe, Zarah and Daisy meant everything to Suzy and it is obvious in the way that they get so happy when they see her that they love her too.

It is hard to imagine life with out Suzy and it would be easy to curl up in a ball and shut out the world but Suzy would have a fit. You just know that she would emotionally blackmail you with 'but what about the animals?'. Fortunately, Suzy has been a great mentor to many of us and has empowered us with the skills, initiative and dedication to continue the fight. She now has many of us blackmailing ourselves with 'but what about the animals?'.
(Note: This text block contains a large, tilted handwritten-style quote from another person, which is also transcribed in a separate block below.)

In every action we will remember Suzy; her passion, her courage and her commitment.

With love and great sadness,

AAA



Suzy was one of my best mates, I think about her every day, she reminds me of what I should be doing with my life, what my priorities should be. She inspired so many people with her values of love for all creatures. She was a fantastic person that will be missed by so many people and animals alike. No one can ever replace her, but we can all try and continue the beautiful work she was all about.
love you heaps! and miss you enormously xxx

I have known suzy for 6 years while fighting along side her for the lives of animals whenever possible. She was a great inspiration and always encouraged me to keep standing up for the animals.
I am going to miss you.



Disrupting the vivisectors day off by sitting on train tracks at ANZCCART in Otautahi, 2003.





zing zong zoe number one super girl

This is potentially the worst news I have ever received. This is a major loss for the animals. I think it may be fair to say that she directly saved more animals from conditions of suffering than anyone else in New Zealand thus far. I have many fond memories of late night missions into factory farms with Suzy, leaving many cages empty. Who can ever take her place? I'm incredibly saddened by this news.

You get a good feeling from some people. We met once soon after I was released from prison in 1999 and I got that feeling. It was clear to me she was here to make a difference. Suzy, if you get the chance to do some haunting I have a list. With the greatest respect

Keith Mann

Miss you heaps. You got me active when I was looking for something more direct. I remember arguing with you over direct action of all things, didn't take long for Suzy and AAA to expunge that one out of me! A loss for animals, planet and people.

Bieuuuw!

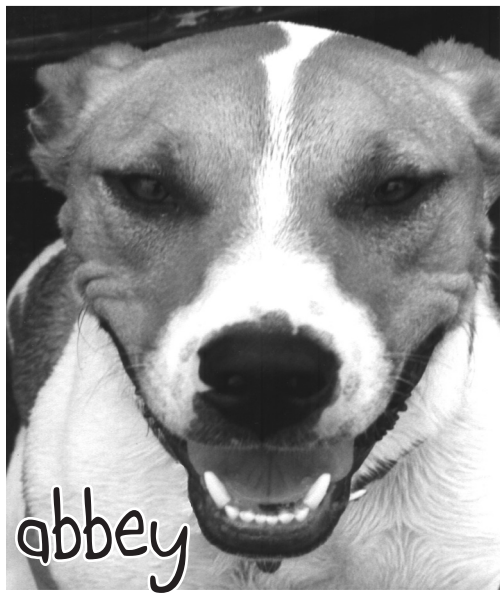
While Suzy and I never forged a close friendship, nor was she a strong ally of SAFE, I still recognised her as someone who was dedicated and loyal to advocating for the right of animals. She demonstrated her personal commitment to the movement and running AAA for many years and that she was responsible for making significant achievements in Auckland under AAA. While she will be sorely missed I know she will be remembered by those who admired and respected her forever.

Although always displaying a quite and reserved front, her personality was actually strong and practical but loving once she let you in, and that was only reserved for those who were 'cool' in her eyes. And she would drop you if you ever disrespected that intimate trust. She always had a simplicity in her ideas that appealed to me and her results were always tangible.

Suzy was also our friend. We watching far too many movies and too much TV together, we got sick stuffing our mouths with fake meat made-of-who-knows-what at the vegetarian cafés in Auckland City and Penrose. We often went on missions to find Long John Silver vegan chip-pies, but if closed, we would go to the Burgerie for fatty vegan fast food on K'rd.

One funny story I can relate now about Suzy was how she got a small scar on her face. One night bricking shops in west Auckland a friend huffed a large brick that bounced because it was aimed at the middle of the window rather than the edges and hit Suzy in the face. Seriously funny later but a little difficult to explain to AGE that night when she was bleeding badly.

If it wasn't for Suzy I wouldn't be vegan, I wouldn't have got out of bed to do stalls and I wouldn't be a direct actionist in fact I might not even be here. I know you didn't have a concept of a higher power Suzy, you and I talked about this over chips and chocolate many times late at night. Because what sort of god would create hell on earth for earths most gentle creatures? But your karmic points or 'vegan points' were off the scale, you would be in a better place or reincarnated as a higher being. Of course thats bullshit and you want better for the animals now on earth. So I hope people take your life as example of how to live and as you would have said "shut up and start smashing shit."



abbey



daisy doo doo

After meeting Suzy I was soon doing things I never dreamed of; running into fur stores masked up throwing fur around, waking up animal abusers at all hours of the night with an air horn and locking on to the door of a fur store. Not only did we seem to be achieving something we were having a blast doing it. Suzy was always in control of the situation and even if we got caught the penalty would be nothing compared to what the animals endure, right?

It is safe to say that Suzy has had the biggest influence on my life to date and is the main reason I am the way I am today. She has opened my eyes to the suffering of animals, to the joy of abused animals being placed in loving homes and the motto of 'no fucking compromise'.

Most of all she has taught me that if you see a problem fix it yourself because no one else is going to. This is the same as saying if you see a neglected dog in someone's backyard don't politely ask the abusive person to untie the dog and feed him every day. Rather use your belt as a lead and within in minutes you will have a new furry friend in your car.



daisy and puppy (zarah)

I first met Suzy in the early 1990s. At the time Auckland was quite active with animal rights demos every weekend. Suzy was Auckland coordinator for Save Animals From Exploitation until late 1996 but after that she preferred to work on her own.

In 1998 and 99 she lived in the UK for a year, causing all sorts of bother for shops selling fur coats in London.

One day Suzy and a couple of others were in her car driving around checking out factory farms around Auckland. We got to a turkey farm and she drove right up the driveway past the farmers living room. We could clearly see Mr and Mrs factory farmer watching TV on a Saturday afternoon. Are you sure this is a good idea Suzy? Shouldn't we wait until the farmer is gone? or maybe at night time? Too late, we are already here, stop asking questions and grab a turkey!

We waved at the farmer as we drove back down the driveway with two enormous turkeys on our laps! Suzy was like that, when it came to rescuing animals, careful planning and thinking ahead just slowed her down! I was constantly amazed at how much she got away with...

In November 1999 while traveling back to Auckland after a demo, she was arrested at 3am in Bulls and accused of trashing several butcher shops, a meat warehouse and a bacon factory as she passed through Levin and Bulls. (She eventually got off most of it but was convicted for the meat warehouse)

In 2000 Suzy started the Fur Free Auckland campaign and became the main organiser of Auckland Animal Action. I didn't see her much after that as we ended up in different towns working on different things, but I still remember the old days when we would all pile into Suzies car for an expensive night out (well, expensive for animal abusers anyway!), almost every weekend, way back in the day.

good times
M@x



UNDERSTANDING NEWBIES:

For an Inclusive and Effective Animal Liberation Movement

Animal rights activism was probably the first grassroots activism I became involved in when I first became politically active. As someone that has been involved in animal rights activism for three years, I have seen some of the ups and downs of the movement. I have deep admiration for many of the people within the movement and the work they have done and are still doing, but there are a few criticisms I have to make just based on personal experience. The personal conflicts, personality clashes, political splits that exist in virtually every socio-political movement is a challenge for us all. But we cannot forget that beyond all the personal shit, we're all in it for the animals. We're in it for the animals that are killed, tortured, caged, enslaved, milked, skinned, abused and exploited everyday because of the profit-driven industrial capitalist system we all live under.

When I first got involved in animal rights activism in Auckland, it was through Auckland Animal Action. And I realised that it was one of the few groups in Aotearoa that constantly used direct action in campaigns. It was empowering to be part of a group that was actually effective and organised. The weekly demonstrations outside of fur shops would achieve immediate results and we would have minor victories along the way. It didn't just stop shops selling fur; it also raised public consciousness about fur and the

cruelty of the fur industry. Many pedestrians would support us, sometimes joining in or engaging in heated debates about possum fur. Eggs have been thrown at us (although some missed and hit the shop windows), water spilt on us, aggressive shop owners threatening to murder us and hit us with metal bars. It's all part of the fun. Can't forget the regular harassment from cops or security guards telling us to stop using whistles. I learnt my rights with the police and the importance of security culture through animal rights activism.

The longer I'd been involved, the more I noticed the underlying hierarchy within the group and the elitism and clique-ness within the animal rights movement. Part of it is understandable, considering the nature of direct action and the constant state and corporate surveillance of activism that threatens their profits and power. Of course new people cannot be trusted immediately to engage in illegal direct action. But it is important to be as inclusive as possible in meetings and decision-making to plan public actions. I can however understand if new people want to abstain from decision-making if they are completely new to activism altogether. It can be a really intimidating atmosphere if you are new because grassroots activism is very different to orga-



nizing in daily life. From school to work, you are constantly given orders and being told what to do. So it takes a while to adapt to grassroots consensus decision-making, to feel confident enough to participate and to feel like your point of view is valid enough for consideration. It can take a while for new people to start taking on responsibilities, to think about strategy, tactics and the direction of the group.

The elitism, the personality clashes, the political disagreements and ego battles isn't just a problem with the animal rights movement. It happens in pretty much all social, political and environmental movements around the world. It's a problem with the individualistic, patriarchal, competitive and hierarchical culture we all live in. But we cannot let this get in the way of animal liberation and social revolution. I don't have any answers as to how to deal with these issues as I've mainly observed it from the sideline. I guess it's something the people involved need to work through. But if it is a question of tactics and strategy, people can always work on something different.

We have to be careful that our movement doesn't become so fragmented that we can't be effective anymore. We ultimately need each other to be as effective as we can, because if you look around, there aren't that many of us. And there won't be that many more left if people drop out because of personal issues, there





will be even less if we don't make an effort to be inclusive of all people interested in fighting for animal liberation. We simply cannot win this fight with small cliques and affinity groups alone. Essentially, for all animals in this world to be free, we need major social, political, economic and cultural change. It requires a major shift of values and worldviews particularly in the western world where people view themselves as separate from the environment and animals. We need a revolution that liberates all living beings, which is extremely difficult to achieve as a minority in the global population. We need a big and inclusive movement that allows for diversity of tactics. While ALF-style direct action done by a small group is important and effective in directly saving lives and exposing the industries of death, we also need engage with the public in the streets to bring more people, thus more ideas and resources to build an effective movement.

As radical animal rights activists, we perhaps have fundamentally different views to "liberal" advocates of animal rights, which tend to be most new people. I'm sure we've all been there. Having been exposed to animal suffering and wanting to do something about it, most people go to liberal NGO-type organizations such as SAFE with the genuine intention of wanting to help the animals and make a difference. Like most people in the radical AR movement, I got frustrated with the bureaucracy and the lack of real action for animals and the single-issued nature of such organizations that don't take into consideration other forms of op-

pression in their quest to popularise animal liberation ideas (e.g. sexist advertising). For new people who's only experience of animal rights is from volunteering or working with those bureaucratic organizations, it's important to not think of us radical activists as somehow superior to those who may not have read the right books, or have the right ideas. Most people have an emotional response rather than an intellectual response to animal suffering and that's a very human response. So we can only really expect people to be liberals when they first get involved. Radicalisation and politicisation of new people is a process that might need some patience. It's usually easier when the people are younger and open to new and more radical ideas.

Despite the liberal politics and bureaucracies of organisations such as SAFE and Greenpeace who seem to be more worried about public image that getting shit done, they do play a useful role in animal

rights activism. They serve as the bridge between mainstream apathetic society to radical activism. They have more money and resources than us. They can reach more people than us. Those who are involved in grassroots activism and work for liberal NGOs can aid the process of radicalizing new people, introducing them to other groups and bring more people into grassroots activism. In that sense, liberal organisations can play an important role in strengthening the radical animal rights movement and potentially other radical movements as well.

A lot of us radical animal rights activists are also involved in other forms of grassroots activism for social and/or environmental justice. Most of us are for human equality and fight oppression based on gender, ethnicity, class, sexuality, age etc. Some of us may not be interested in fighting other forms of oppression because we are privileged by them – if you're a rich, white, heterosexual, middle-aged man, you're the most privileged of us all. If you can empathise with animals, you should be able to empathise with the poor, the colonised, the raped, the abused and exploited and likewise the people who can empathise with oppressed humans should also be able to empathise with suffering animals. It's useful to make those links not only to gain support for the AR movement but because we are all fighting the same system that oppresses most of the earth's inhabitants, human and non-human. We need to build solidarity between human struggles for liberation and animal liberation because it really is "One struggle. One fight. Human freedom. Animal rights!"





'Whistles-blaring-people-screaming animal rights' is one of the few movements that doesn't hold back. The animal rights community has been far more willing to accept in-your-face confrontational tactics than most other movements. This acceptance of militant tactics has made the AR movement a real threat to multi-nationals and governments across the globe. As with any struggle, the tactics we choose should be used carefully and always in the context of the animal abuse we are fighting against. We should continually assess the success of the tactics we are using and make sure that we are being as effective as we can. Amidst the balaclavas, the suffering of animals and the caring nature of the AR movement should not be lost.

Sirens and horns shattering the silence of suburbia announce to the neighbors that a vivisector lives on their street. In-your-face high volume methods have been used effectively around the globe, as SHAC internationally and AAA locally have demonstrated. These tactics, effective as they may be on a case by case basis, are unlikely to attract much public support and can alienate those who are not already committed to the cause. New activists may be challenged and put off by confrontational tactics and find it hard to get involved. It is easy to forget that many activists only come to accept the need for radical action after experiencing the futile nature of acceptable protest tactics. When using militant tactics, the reason for their use should be clear to all involved, so people know why they

are doing things and to prevent a needless 'militant for the sake of it' culture developing.

The public has an aversion to in-your-face activism and it can be much easier to sympathize with the guy in the suit than the protester. Unless managed, this aversion can leave our movement vulnerable to attacks by the media and the companies we are opposing. Tearful

store owners describing mean callous activists can effectively shift sympathy for abused animals to sympathy for animal abusers. Making it clear that it is the protesters that are usually attacked and dressing sensibly when media are present may go some way to balance the situation. I have never seen a protester attack a store owner but I, the protester, have been punched, kicked and assaulted in several other ways in my time. Conveying the vulnerable position animal rights activists are in and the fact that we receive no material benefit from our actions may also help. If you are being highly effective and have little need for public support in particular campaign then negative portrayal of activists may be a completely acceptable cost.

Before going into a protest or action, the target should be clear. If it is to publicize animal suffering and raise public awareness then tactics should be chosen that emotionally connect people to the suffering and that will attract rather than threaten people. If the aim is to shut down a multinational company then tactics must be chosen which seriously threaten

that company's ability to carry out business as usual. Whatever the goal, tactics should be chosen based on the target. Mounting a media-friendly campaign against a company which makes most of its money from torturing animals may result in donations but will do little to help the animals. Above all, activists need to be dynamic and able to collaborate and work on multiple levels simultaneously. Movement building and awareness raising actions should not be disparaged but it should not be forgotten that those tactics will not defeat companies which make a significant portion of their profits from animal abuse. Where companies make all or almost all of their profits from abusing animals, tactics are probably going to have to become very militant before they begin to be effective.

I believe that no matter what tactics are chosen, the key is to continually focus on animal suffering. When faced with the sheer scale and nature of the ongoing animal abuse in our society the tactics used by AR activists seem incredibly reasonable, even tame. On protests clear images of animal suffering can be highly effective. When talking to the media spokespeople should come across professionally and constantly tie individuals and companies to the abuse they are responsible for.





The keys to using hit and run tactics are:

- A high level of mobility (good running shoes)
- Good knowledge of the terrain (scope the area well)
- Ability for fast decision making (oh shit cops run!)
- Knowing when to disengage and disperse (hmm will the security guard notice us)

An interesting example of swarm came when activists decided to hassle the Queen St McDonalds in 2005. At a prearranged time, dozens of activists converged almost simultaneously on the McDonalds and began a rowdy occupation – yelling and generally having a good time. Unfortunately, the police turned up after about 20 minutes and began arresting people on sight. Clearly, knowing when to run away could have been useful in these circumstances.

would have kept an eye on the police numbers and would have left the restaurant as soon as police began massing. They could have then moved on to do other protests around Auckland, as the group had decided. This ability to disengage far before the battle turns against the activists frustrates the police and helps everyone get away. For it to work, everyone has to leave at the same time so stragglers can't be picked off one by one by cops.

everyone hops back in their cars and heads home.

Working in our favor is the fact that radios and scanners are cheaply available and easy to use. With the use of one or two well disguised lookouts it is possible to carry out actions right in the heart of the city and still have no arrests. Note though that cell phones while useful for organizing meetups and warning people are incredibly easy to monitor. Don't make the cops jobs any easier and avoid cell phones whenever possible.



If swarm tactics were being used the activists

Another example is the home demo. Activists all turn up outside and an animal abusing scumbag's house at an early hour of the morning and inform them and their neighbours that torturing animals for a living is evil. Then before the cops turn u p

So remember move fast, act decisively and look for the easiest place to strike. With any luck you should be able to carry out your action before the police are even able to decide how to respond let alone get enough police to arrest the activists involved.





Live Sheep Exports from New Zealand?

The live export trade is one of the most sickening forms of animal abuse. In Australasia the live export of sheep has a long and bloody history. Since the 70s Australia and New Zealand have been exporting sheep to the Middle East and more recently Asian countries. Once sheep are too old to produce wool they are shipped overseas for live slaughter. The trade satisfies not only a cruel demand for animal flesh but the customary practice known as Halal killing in which animals must be killed with a single cut across the neck.

The horrific journey often begins weeks before shipment when sheep are confined to feedlots to fatten them up and get them used to dry pelleted food. The sheep are then transported by truck to ports where thousands are forced aboard the death ships. On board the boats the

sheep are packed 3 or 4 per square metre in metal pens. The layers are stacked 11 or higher with upwards of 40,000 sheep per shipment. The sheep are completely exposed to the elements with those on the side exposed to rain and breaking waves and those in the center suffering from extreme heat. Throughout the three week journey hundreds of sheep die from starvation, heat exhaustion, broken bones and trampling with around 40,000 sheep dying in transit from Australia every year.

Those that survive the journey are no better off as five Australian undercover investigations over the past few years have shown. Those that survive the journey are often injured, dazed and unable

to walk properly. The sheep are often distressed and panting in temperatures in excess of 40 degrees. They are mercilessly forced off the boats before being dragged



to trucks or car boots to have their throats slit while fully conscious.

In Australia and across the world live exports have met with fierce resistance. Ports have been



blockaded, animal feed tainted and activists regularly lock down to or throw themselves in front of trucks attempting to get into port. In Britain ,Jill Phipps died after being run over by a truck carrying veal calves for export to Europe, when veal crates were still legal. There have been many close calls across the world, as truck drivers often escorted by police drive through lines of protesters. Live exports are generally opposed by the public due to the clear suffering involved.

New Zealand halted live sheep exports five years ago after a shipment of sheep on the MV Cormo Express were turned away from Saudi Arabia as many were sick and diseased. The 60,000 sheep were



Australian Police acting as private security for animal abusers; as per usual



Slaughter conditions in the Middle East

stranded for 8 weeks at sea during which 6,000 died from starvation, heat exhaustion and illness. This created international controversy and a shocked public was led to believe that the sheep would be returned to Australia. The Australian government desperate to avoid bringing the sheep back to Australia where the public would be able to see the state they were in, instead paid Eritrea 11 million dollars to take the sheep. After this, Australia and New Zealand temporarily halted live exports for slaughter, although New Zealand continues to export animals for breeding purposes. Australia resumed exports shortly after and continues to this day.

In October last year, Jim Anderton

banned live exports pending a legislative review. This was welcomed by Animal Welfare organizations and it was hoped that a permanent ban would be put in place. Despite this the man behind the Cormo shipment in 2003 is confident of resuming live exports from New Zealand to Saudi Arabia in June. Awassi NZ limited is breeding desert sheep in Napier and has applied for a special export permit which would

allow live exports of sheep to go ahead. Unsurprisingly, federated farmers have come out behind Awassi NZ and are completely supporting a resumption of live exports.

Awassi New Zealand's farm appears to be located on Smedley road Tikokino near to Hastings. They are thought to have around 300 cattle and 7000 sheep. The sheep have distinctive brown heads and legs. Apart from this, little is known about Awassi New Zealand or their plans to resume live Exports from New Zealand.

While it may seem reasonable to blame the destination countries for this sick trade, much of the blame lies at the feet of export nations. It is countries like Australia and New Zealand which profit most from this trade and it is our responsibility to end this once and for all.



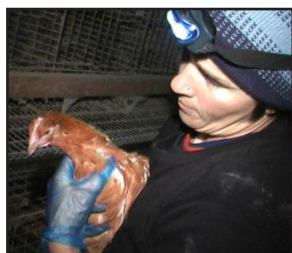


updates from the underground

Our troops in both Open Rescue and the ALF have been busy the last 6 months exposing the conditions on poultry and pig factory farms throughout Aotearoa and placing just over 300 abused animals in loving homes.

**13th October '07:
37 Pullets Rescued**

This action saw the emergence of Christchurch Open Rescue and the rescue of 37 pullets destined for a miserable life as an egg machine on a battery hen farm.



"The chickens are now having dirt baths, eating fresh greenery

and will soon be laying eggs for the first time, free from the battery farm conditions, where they struggled to even have enough space to turn around" said Rebecca McCready, Christchurch Open Rescue member.

For footage from the rescue visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDJIWNF1gPQ>

**5th November '07:
Liberation dedicated to Barry Horne**

Six battery hens rescued as part of an Open Rescue investigation into an Auckland battery hen farm.



**17th November '07:
Animal Liberation Front Rescue**



Ducks from Factory Farm Misery

The communique from the ALF stated "30 beautiful ducks have been rescued and are now free to spend the rest of their natural life playing in the water, where they belong.

Sadly the thousands we left behind will have long been murdered, packaged and shipped off to be consumed. Like other factory farmed animals, ducks are not treated as thinking, feeling beings, but as commodities to be turned into profit.'

Footage from this investigation detailed a slaughterhouse worker punching a duck in the head. This was referred on the Auckland SPCA and the worker was charged with offenses under the Animal Welfare Act.

A documentary detailing the life of ducks on a factory farm was produced this can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GCoZt4VIAo> (part one) and <http://www.youtube.com/tch?v=9GgQBN44xAk> (part two).

**Early December '07:
Pullets Rescued**

The Animal Rights Activists liberated

25 pullets from a Northland Farms part of an investigation into Battery Hen Farming.

**23 December '07:
Santa's Little Helpers visit Emaciated Hens**

Open Rescue members, coined Santa's little helpers, rescued 15 emaciated caged birds from an Auckland egg factory.

The group released a Christmas DVD appealing to New Zealanders boycott battery eggs for 2008; this can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wgRCKIrfKk>

**New Years Eve:
Animal Rights Activists visit Battery Hen Farm**

On New Years Eve while many were



"Our wish for Christmas is that New Zealanders stop buying factory farmed eggs and that they no longer support caged cruelty" says Open Rescue spokesperson Deirdre Sims.

partying Animal Rights Activists were seeing in the New Year by entering a battery hen farm in South Auckland. Thirty hens were rescued from this farm and the conditions documented.

Footage of this and other raids was compiled as a documentary 'The True Cost of Eggs'. This can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sd4ikC-tBI>

17 January '08: Open Rescue Solidarity Rescue

Christchurch Open Rescue has announced the rescue of 31 hens from a farm south of Chirstchurch.

"The action was carried out in solidarity with Mark Eden, an Open Rescue member in Wellington who is currently facing charges for his role in a rescue at a Foxton farm," the group said in a statement. "The birds have all been provided with new homes where they can live out their lives free to exhibit their natural behaviours."

Mid - February '08: Strawberry Saved From Slaughter

ALF liberate piglet, nicknamed Stawbery, from factory farm.

For footage visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psVUHhr-yg>

Early March '08: ALF Liberate 130 Hens and dedicate to Suzanne Carey

The ALF liberated 40 battery hens from a convicted Animal Abuser in South Auckland.



Later that week they also entered a pullet farm in South Auckland liberate 90 young pullets complete with fluffy yellow heads.

The ALF dedicated this action to Suzanne Carey who passed away in late February.

from the communique:

"Every year throughout New Zealand, hundreds of thousands of pigs are confined to sow crates, farrowing crates and fattening pens. Males in the fattening pens live in their own excrement in cramped pens where await slaughter. The females



are treated as machines, being constantly confined to sow or farrowing crates where they cannot turn around, comfortably lie down or properly care for their young. Before long their babies are ripped away from them and they are impregnated again. They are treated as though they do not feel pain, as though they do not matter, as though they are profit.



We recently entered a

shed containing farrowing crates on an intensive pig farm in Auckland. Along with documenting the heart breaking conditions these mothers are forced endure, we also liberated one sweet little piglet. He has been nicknamed 'Strawberry' after his fondness of the fruit. He was a third of the size of his littermates and would certainly have not survived much longer on the farm, though if he had he was destined to be slaughtered. He has since been placed in a new home where he is free to be a pig; to run, play and forage.



Pigs are not profit and they are not food; they are thinking feeling loving beings that deserve to be free!

Viva ALF!"





Layer Hen Code Amendments: How these effect your underground investigation



Next time you plan a trip to a local battery hen farm you should remember to pack yourself a tape measure (unprinted of course : -). On the first of January this year new 'minimum standards' for the stocking density of birds in battery hen cages came into effect. These standards are issued under the Animal Welfare (Layer Hens) Code of Welfare 2005.

Codes of Welfare are issued under the Animal Welfare Act (the Act) for some animal abusing industries. They set down minimum standards and recommended best practices; only the minimum standards are legally enforceable. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the SPCA and the Police are inspectors under the Act and are responsible for enforcing the minimum standards.

As of the first of January the space per bird on a battery hen farm was meant to increase by 50cm²; this is an area approximately the same as an eftpos card. The standard area allowed to each bird prior to this new minimum standard was 450cm²; this is approximately the size of an A4 sheet of paper. There is another standard for all cages built after the 1st of January 2008; these cages are supposed to allow each bird 550cm² (this is an increase equivalent to the size of two eftpos cards). By 2014 all cages are supposed to allow each hen 550cm².

What does all this mean? you ask. To be honest not a whole lot for the animals actually. It is my opinion at least the Animal Welfare Codes are not worth the paper they are written on; the animals want freedom not a little bit more room so they can almost stretch one wing at a time (provided their cage mates aren't trying to do the same thing of course).

To measure the cages use your tape measure and measure the length of the front of the cage and then the depth of the cage. When doing this you should also film:

- the activist/s measuring the cage
- the entire length of the tape measure against the cage to show that it is only measuring one cage and in one shot zoom in on the tape measure to reveal the measurement. Do the same for both the length and depth as this will be useful evidence
- the number of birds in the cage that you measured

Other tips:

- Film a few cages and check the number of birds in each cage incase this varies.
- When filming the depth of the cages do this at the end of the row so that you can clearly show that you are measuring correctly.
- The actual calculations can be carried out at home, rather than in the sheds.
- To calculate the area per bird us the following formula
Length x depth / the number of birds = area per bird
- If your tape measure only has inches the conversion to centimeters is 1 inch = 2.54 cm



	Cages existing prior to the commencement of this code	New cages built after the commencement of this code	All cages existing prior to the commencement of this code from 01/01/08	All cages from 01/01/2014
Sq cm/bird (minimum)	450	550	500	550

While these increases are insignificant, they were hailed by NAWAC and the Minister as great changes for the welfare of battery hens and were in some way meant to make up for the fact that they did not recommend banning this cruel practice as other countries have done. In light of this to catch farmers not even being able to meet these changes could result in prosecutions of animal abusers and would also result in NAWAC, the Minister of Agriculture and Industry Officials looking bad.

If farms are found to be breaching these new standards a COPY of the evidence should be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) with a covering letter detailing the farms location and what the evidence shows.

MAF can be contacted through the following means:

Snail Mail: MAF
PO BOX 2 – 526
Wellington

Email: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz
Telephone: 04 – 819 – 0100

A disclaimer/cautionary note: It is not being suggested that missions should be for the sole purpose of checking compliance with these new regulations it is simply another angle to look at during farm visits, investigations and liberations. We do not want to get too hung up on compliance with the Welfare Code standards because to do so would validate them and could lead to us being seen as possibly supportive of the industry if the codes were followed.





INTRODUCING THE MEXICAN ALF

For those of you who have been following Bite Back's Diary of Actions over the last few months, you will have no doubt noticed the many actions bought to you by the good people of the Mexican ALF.

The day after we thought about writing this piece an article appeared on Indymedia UK titled

"If they do not close, we will close them. If they do not stop, neither will we!"
Animal Liberation Front - Commando Green Black (FLA-CVN) [MEXICO]

'Mexican ALF – History in the Making', since then other independent media have also carried comments and articles full of admiration for the Mexican ALF and most recently an ALF cell from the UK has dedicated an action to their

Mexican comrades. In this global struggle for liberation the actions of others help to inspire and encourage and the Mexican ALF are certainly doing this.

Since they have arrived on the scene there, there thankfully, seems to be no slowing these AL-

corporations. And they have not stopped there.

Despite the big actions and militant communiqués they have reminded us that it is not all about the militant attitude, designer camo and most animals rescued. With rescue of four puppies, a turkey and two doves

they have reminded us that

'every animal is important as we continue the fight'. There is something about their words, their actions and their images that comes across so humble and straight from the heart; feelings that are too often lost in the macho stereotype of the ALF.

'Ask the Duck' a recent communiqué from the Mexican ALF:

"It is already known that the Frente de Liberacion Animal (FLA/ALF) has as its objective (in addition to causing economic damages to animal abusers) the rescue and liberation of animals from the clutches of the speciesist murderer. Lamentably the tools that are used by the FLA are illegal by law and by the established order that considers animal liberation activists to be terrorists.

As the Frente de Liberacion Animal Mexico (FLAM) we feel that if to save animals from being mistreated, tortured, persecuted, hunted, imprisoned and murdered is to be a terrorist, then that is what we are and we love it!

Throughout history all the progress of civilization has come from attacks against laws and each liberator has been listed as an illegal;



this is why as a militant, clandestine group, we put our freedom at stake

to avenge and give freedom to other living beings victimized by the ego-centrism and the degenerated feelings of the human animal influenced by capitalist, neo-liberal globalization.

The sun has already been hidden a thousand times, said the duck, while he watched the cars pass. He watched the people stop and with feelings of pity say: What a pretty imprisoned duck; the sad duck sleeps with no one for company, without knowing what it is to be truly free, waking every morning and looking at the sky, admiring his bird brothers and sisters flying from one side to the other. They stop in the trees and look for food; he listens to them singing happy songs; he dreams that some day freedom will arrive and pining to go from the cage where he is shut away, the body will mend itself from this monotony.

On the night of March 2, while he was sleeping, he heard noises. Some humans dressed in black, with ski masks covering their faces approached. They jumped a gate; the duck quacked saying Free me immediately I don't want to be here! The humans wrapped him with a blanket, put him in a box and they carried him away.

The duck, watching through the holes in the box, did not know what was passing before his eyes, but surely it was something good, so he wasn't nervous. Soon the cage was opened and he saw the great sun which he always watched, looking at the rest of his brothers and sisters flying, feeding himself on what they had around them. He saw water in a much greater quantity than the little that he saw before in his dirty plate of food. The environment had a distinct aroma, the air moved his feathers, his legs touched the moist earth and at last he felt free. He fluttered his wings with great force, vigor and happiness and now this duck, hoping to be rescued and released, that had been disappointed by the cowardice of those who shout 'Animal Liberation' and do nothing for them, is free at last. Is direct action useless?

Ask the duck.
FLAM"



on the job security



Over the last year, our wider community has been subjected to infiltrators from the private investigation firm Thompson and Clark and widespread Police surveillance. Among other things this has raised very serious security concerns. The efforts of Thompson and Clark and the Police this year should not surprise us, after all this is common practise overseas however for some I would suspect this has come as quite a shock. I do not think that these events are isolated and I would suspect that they will become the norm from now on. It is for this reason that we, as a community and as individuals, need to properly adopt security culture. This article will briefly address what security culture is, why we need it and what this means practically.

Having a security culture is where people know their rights and, more importantly, assert them. Those who belong to a security culture also know what behaviour compromises security and they are quick to educate those people who partake in insecure behaviour. This security consciousness makes security violations socially unacceptable.

Security culture is about more than just targeting specific behaviours in individuals such as bragging, gossiping or lying. It is also about checking that movement behaviours and practices don't feed into intelligence operations being carried out against our community.

As the events this year highlight, we are under increased surveillance. If we want to be successful we need to seriously adopt security culture, stay smart, in control and out of jail.

From sitting in court and reading the paper many of the Police tactics

have been revealed and it is not pretty. However, hopefully it will serve as a wake up call for many of us who have become slack when it comes to security. Surveillance from Police included, but was not limited to, intercepting text messages, bugging cars, bugging one building (though as far as we know not anyone's house), looking into people's bank accounts, breaking into and searching (and photographing) someone's car, evesdropping on conversations at a café, looking at people's internet accounts (particularly Trade Me in this case), following people using multiple cars, filming peoples front doors and photographing people 'in action'.

While some of this is beyond our control, we can adopt practices and behaviour that would limit 'their' interest in us or at least their ability to gather evidence. One of our weakest links is communication; while we should all know text messages, emails, talking in peoples cars and houses are not good places to organise for anything, even in codes

(we might hate them but the Police are not stupid – well not that stupid) we want to keep a secret (whether it be for a fur lock on or a Camp in the Ureweras) but many of us are very busy trying to make the world a better place and it is naturally easy to become lazy. With regard to emails and text messages it is little to no effort

LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS a quick look at security culture (or lack of) within our community

for the Police to intercept and store these; why are we making their job easier for them? Meeting up face to face in a public location may be a little, or even a lot, more effort but surely spending a little time in the beginning is better than spending a long (or any) time in jail. The same can be said for anything you do on your computer; if you need to do something you would rather the Police did not find out about spend the \$2 and go to an internet café (with out cameras of course).

It is important to also watch what we say, even if we think we have nothing to hide. As my friend quite nicely it in his post on Indymedia this is not a game; and talking to Police and the media are risking the liberty of themselves and those they claim to call friends. During the raids, people have been known to have invited Police on to their property when they did not have a warrant and talked with them and the corporate media; this is not ok and can put . .

Continues on page 22

KEYS, WALLET, BALACLAVA?

Whether you are on a farm in the middle of the night or in the middle of a black bloc there are some things that you need to remember; unless of course you think you are more effective in police custody?

1. **Gloves** – prevent finger prints, need we say more?
2. **Generic Clothing** – this means free from labels, distinctive patterns and style.
3. **Cover over tattoos, piercing, skin colour, face (including eyebrows) and hair.**
4. **Pockets/Bags** – make sure that there is nothing in your pockets or bag that should not be there (eg. receipts, business cards and ID cards). If you must take your key safety pin this into your pocket.
5. **Shoes** – shoe prints are just like fingerprints and can be traced back to the store they were purchased from; use generic shoes from big retailers with many stores and throw away regularly.
6. **Remove anything that could potentially fall off; this means things like jewellery.**





Loose Lips Sink Ships continued..

media; this is not ok and can put many people in compromising situations with out you even realising it. If the Police are unwarranted and want to enter your property, don't ever let them in and do not leave them alone, follow them until they have left. If they have a warrant, you have to let them in but be sure to watch exactly what they are doing, silently of course. The Police are always gathering information on us and no conversation is ever innocent. They will always pretend to be your friend and start off with friendly chat as this makes you comfortable and makes it hard to know when to stop; the golden rule here is to never start.

Infiltrators are harder to deal with because as we know we do not al-

ways know who they are and there is likely to be some still within our midst. These people are coming from a different place to the Police in that they are not trying to convict us but rather gather information to weaken our campaigns against their clients. Seemingly irrelevant information such as who is sleeping with who can be used to create in fighting and divert attention away from the real issue. In the case of Save Happy Valley, information Ryan (the spy) obtained would have been useful for the many court cases between the group and Solid Energy and to also gage how strong the campaign was. This is valuable information and big companies are willing to pay for it. Thompson and Clark, and their security firm ProVision, specialise in activists and their clients have been known to range from Tegel and the Vivisection In-

dustry through to State Owned Enterprises (Government Owned Businesses) such as Solid Energy. They are a threat to our effective campaigning and we need to remember this.

We need to remember that we are fighting for justice and liberation and our resistance to the current systems of oppression is on the rise. With this comes increasingly more radical ideas and tactics; the more we organise and start to make change the more the Police and business will escalate their repression. Security is becoming more and more important and should be taken seriously.

This is not a game and it would do us all well to remember this!

ANZCCART 2008

Stand up for all the animals suffering in labs throughout Aotearoa

This June, Auckland will play host to vivisectors from both New Zealand and Australia. As in previous years we will be there to greet them.

The demonstration times are as follows:

Sunday, June 29th

- 1.30pm: Welcome
- 4.45pm: Wine and Cheese

Monday, June 30th

- 12.15pm: Lunchtime Demo
- 1.45pm: Should we be giving attention to justifying animals in science?
- 3.30pm: Grief Management for those involved in Euthanasing Animals
- 6.45pm: Conference Dinner

Tuesday, July 1st

To be advised

The venue will be advised closer to the date so stay tuned. In addition to these publicly advertised demonstrations there will be other activities to keep everyone occupied. Details of these will be released closer to the time.

Accommodation will be organised for those traveling from out of Auckland. Please contact Auckland Animal Action on aucklandanimalaction@yahoo.com well in advance if you require accommodation so that we can cater for everyone. More information about this will follow. If you are coming

from out of Auckland and need a ride or can offer a ride to anyone please let us know.

For more information and to keep informed about ANZCCART 2008 check out www.indymedia.org.nz; www.aucklandanimalaction.org.nz; www.rsnz.org/advisory/anzccart/conf2008.

To view a video from ANZCCART 2003, Christchurch, check out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kK4Ax5tg8uM>

SEE YOU THERE!!!!



KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Your guide to animal abusing scumbags and those protecting them. Be sure to keep your collector cards; these are people that it is in your interests to recognise.



GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is an international company who have offices all over the world. Not only do they make dodgy Ribena, they are also Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) single largest customer. They use HLS for experiments every single day and are responsible for the pain and suffering of thousands of animals every year.

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) have been targetting GSK as part of their campaign to shut down HLS. It is about time this campaign came to New Zealand.

When you have a few moments, why not call the office, or better yet Michael Bryant - GSK Director) and let them know that there is no excuse for animal abuse.

*New Zealand Office
8th Floor, Quay Tower
Cnr Customs & Albert Sts
Auckland*

0800 808 500 or 0800 804 040

*Michael Bryant (NZ Director)
162 Millhouse Drive, Howick
0-9-535 4116 (Michael is usually home late so calls are preferred after 10pm).*

*Paul Rose (NZ Director)
4 Flagstaff Terrace, Devonport*

**For more information visit:
www.shac.net/**



Bunny Butcher Simon Malpas



Simon is responsible for the 'severe suffering' of many rabbits whom he uses to research the role of the renal nerve in feedback control of blood pressure. These experiments involve painful and cruel operations to implant electrodes and canule (Flexiable tube). Apparently he is trying to find out what happens when you drain over 60 per cent of a rabbits blood. I thought that would have been obvious.

Word has it Simon is now sporting bonde tints in his hair and can be found speeding round Titirangi in a red convertable (mid - life crisis?).

Keep your eye (fist or foot) out for him at ANZCCART.

know your enemy collector card



Nicholas Thompson

Nicholas is one half of Thompson & Clark Private Investigations Limited, an Auckland firm that specialises in "covert physical and electronic surveillance" and "political activism".

They are best known for planting Somali Young and Ryan Paterson-Rouse within our movement.

Nicholas is also one of the Directors of ProVision a security firm owned by Thompon and Clark.





why support prisoners?

“If they haven’t got prisoners, we have stopped fighting. If our prisoners are forgotten about, they have beaten us.”

— Keith Mann, ALF activist and former prisoner

It’s no exaggeration at this point to say that our planet is in the midst of a serious ecological crisis. All over the globe, every day, the omnicidal plague of industrial civilization continues to spread, driven by economic greed and an insatiable, constantly accelerating demand for

energy and resources. And as this cancerous MegaMachine blindly pursues its “scorched Earth policy”, entire species are going extinct and entire societies are disappearing, and it’s all happening so quickly that there hardly seems time to react.

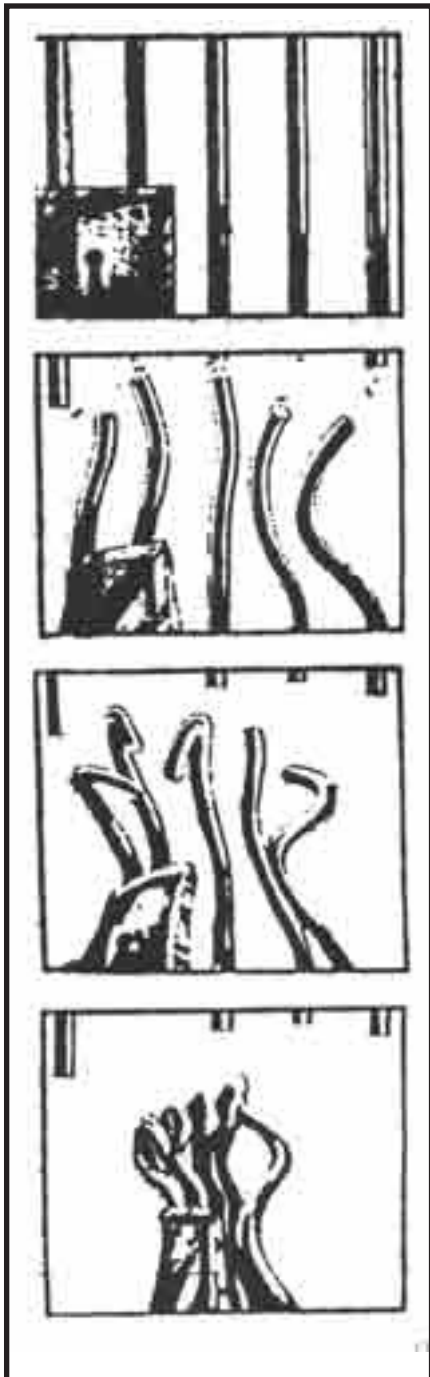
It’s also one of the main things that makes the Irish independence struggle a real struggle, and that separates it from other less-organized movements. We have to start viewing prisoner support work as a revolutionary act and as an indispensable part of any real revolutionary struggle or else the State will crush us while our movement is still in it’s embryonic stages and we will lose the momentum we now have. The purpose of this newsletter is to spread the word about certain individuals who have acted in defense of the Earth and our collective future and who have fallen victim to state repression. We will not allow these comrades to be forgotten about and we will do everything in our power to bring attention to their situation. But beyond publicizing their plight, we want to build up a reliable and consistent support network for them, both to honor their heroic acts and to send a clear message to the State that we are organized enough to take care of our own.

Yet react we must, assertively and immediately, before the biosphere is poisoned and fouled beyond repair and while we still have something worth fighting for. It is in response to the severity of the global environmental crisis that more and more people are starting to step outside the system of Man-made laws and take “illegal” direct action in defense of the Earth. Of course, in this context, legal and illegal are meaningless terms; if we accept that certain strategies (like economic sabotage) are necessary to put the brakes on the industrial death machine, then we have to be prepared to support those individuals who are risking their lives and freedom to carry out these acts.

What we are starting to see is the emergence of a truly radical, decentralized, international environmental movement and an integral part of building such a movement is going to be the creation of a solid, well-organized prisoner support network. Our movement will not continue to grow unless we are able to provide this level of support to our comrades who are unfortunate enough to become prisoners of the State. Regardless of what one may think of the I.R.A. and their nationalistic independence struggle, it’s clear that they’ve done a phenomenally good job taking care of their P.O.W.s and that’s one of the main reasons their movement has been so hard to defeat.

If there is one thing we ask of anyone who comes into contact with this newsletter, it’s that you take the time to write some of these prisoners, not just once but regularly, because in the final analysis this is the best support we can provide them with. We also need to actively counter the State’s propaganda and their attempts to portray these individuals as “terrorists”. The terrorists are those who wage war in pursuit of political power and economic gain and who build prisons to house the ever growing number of people who choose to speak out against this insanity.

Copied from:
<http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk>



a guide to writing to prisoners

One of the main problems that puts people off getting involved in supporting prisoners is a feeling of being intimidated about writing to a prisoner for the first time. It is very hard to write a letter to someone you don't know: people find that they don't know what to say, they feel there are things they can't talk about, or think that prisoners won't be interested in what they have to say. Well this is a problem most of us have had to get over, so we've drawn up some suggestions to help you. Obviously these aren't rigid guidelines, and we don't pretend to have solved all problems here. Different people will write different letters. hopefully they will be of some use.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Some prisons restrict the number of letters a prisoner can write or receive, and they may have to buy stamps and envelopes: and prisoners aren't millionaires. So don't necessarily expect a reply to a card or letter. A lot of prisons allow stamps or an s.a.e to be included with a card or letter, but some don't. Letters do also get stopped, read, delayed, 'diverted'. If you suspect has been or will be nicked by the screws, you can send it Recorded delivery, which unfortunately costs a lot but then they have to open it in the prisoners presence. Also you should put a return address, not just so the prisoner can reply (!), but also because some prisons don't allow letters without a return address. Of course it doesn't have to be your address, but be careful using PO box numbers as some prisons don't allow these either!

WRITING FOR THE FIRST TIME

Say who you are, and if it's relevant that you're from such and such a group. Some people reckon it's better to be up front about your politics as well, to give prisoners

the choice to stay in contact with you or not.

Say where you heard about them and their case. The first letter can be reasonably short, maybe only a postcard. Obviously when you get to know people better you'll have more to talk about. If you are writing to a "framed" prisoner, and you believe them to be innocent, it helps to say so, as it gives people confidence to know that you believe them.

Some people when they write to prisoners, are afraid to talking about their lives, what they are up to, thinking this may depress people banged up, especially prisoners with long sentences, or that they are not interested in your life. Although in some cases this may be true, on the whole a letter is the highpoint of the day for most prisoners. prison life is dead boring, and any news that livens it up, whether it's about people they know or not, is generally welcome. Especially if you didn't know them before they went to prison, they want to know about you, what your life is like etc. Use your sense, don't write about anything that is likely to

get a prisoner in shit with the screws, or

get you or anyone else in trouble with the cops.

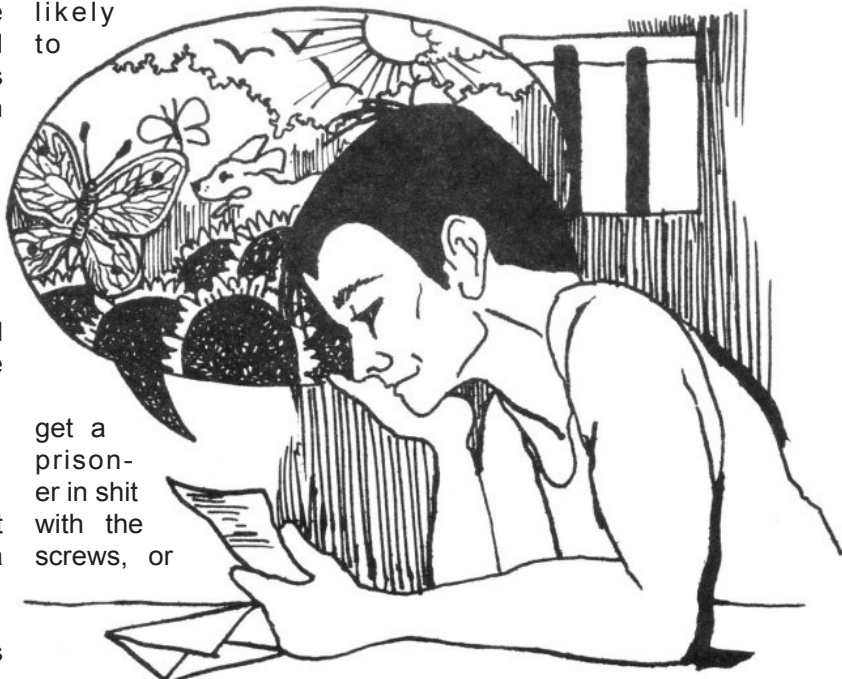
THEY'RE IN THERE FOR US, WE'RE OUT HERE FOR THEM

For people imprisoned from our movements and struggles it's vital to keep them involved in the ongoing resistance - telling them about actions, sending them magazines if they want them, discussing ideas and strategies with them. Use your head though. Some people will just want to keep their head down till they get out.

Adapted from a leaflet by the Anarchist Black Cross.

International Prisoner Support Groups

- <http://www.directaction.info/prisoners.htm>
- <http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk/index.html>
- <http://www.ecoprisoners.org/index.html>
- <http://www.vpsg.org/>
- <http://www.anarchistblackcross.org/>





OCTOBER 15TH SOLIDARITY UPDATE

After the Police “anti-terrorism” raids in Aotearoa / New Zealand on October 15th, 2007, where 17 Tino Rangatiranga and anarchist activists were arrested and threatened with terrorism charges (see <http://www.october15solidarity.info>), activists across the country braced themselves for further raids and arrests. While these took some time to manifest, on February 19th, Police made three further arrests and brought more people in for questioning.

19 people now face charges of unlawfully possessing various firearms and molotov cocktails, while 1 faced cannabis charges, which have already been dealt with in court. 18 of the Arms Act arrestees appeared in the Auckland District Court on March 5th, while the 19th has successfully managed to have his case heard in his home town rather than it being heard in conjunction with the others in Auckland.

The purpose of the March 5th hearing was primarily to set dates and adjust bail conditions, and in this, some small victories were accomplished by the defence team. All 18 arrestees had their bail conditions adjusted so that they only have to report to the Police once a week instead of twice, although this is still a huge financial hardship for some who live in rural areas and have to pay around NZ\$40 in petrol each week to drive to the nearest station. Some arrestees also had oppressive curfews and non-association orders dropped.

From here, there will be at least two more “call-over” hearings, which only the lawyers will attend, before the two big dates by July 5th, the Crown must submit all “briefs of evidence” to the court, detailing the evidence they hold against each arrestee, allowing the arrestees to plan their defence. Then, on September 1st, the depositions hearing will begin. During depositions, the Crown presents their evidence, after which the Judge will determine which, if any, of the charges have sufficient evidence to require a trial. This is currently set down for the entire month of September, although some of the lawyers believe it could take anything up to 10 weeks.

Solidarity Is Strength!

Significant financial support is needed for the arrestees. Just 5 of the 19 Arms Act arrestees live in Auckland, meaning that the other 12 (and their whanau and friends) need to pay extensive travel, food and accommodation costs for the length of the hearings, during which time they will obviously not be able to work. Additionally, some of the arrestees have got back little to nothing of what was confiscated by Police as potential evidence from their homes, and some came out of jail with little more than the clothes on their back.

Bank account details for donations can be found at <http://www.october15solidarity.info/en/donate>.

The October15thSolidarity.info crew have an infopack available for any individuals or groups wanting to organise solidarity activities. If you email info@october15solidarity.info, they will mail you a CD with a Powerpoint presentation, films and fliers you can use. There is also a benefit CD available, called Tu Kotahi – Freedom Fighting Anthems, from <http://freedomfighterscd.org.nz>. The CD contains music donated by some of Aotearoa’s top musicians, and spoken word from Tame Iti, one of the arrestees.

October15thSolidarity.info is also attempting to have the articles and background information on the website translated in an effort to broaden the connection between all of our struggles internationally. Some German and French translations are already available, but if you can help out with these or any other languages, please email info@october15solidarity.info.

Background

For more information on the raids and aftermath, see:

State Repression in Aotearoa / New Zealand <http://www.october15solidarity.info/node/218>

Land of the Long White Lie: The New Zealand Terror Raids (by one of the arrestees) <http://www.october15solidarity.info/node/254>

BOOKS NOT BOMBS

Need some inspiration, ideas or a tune for a mission out to the countryside? Check out the latest music, books and zines and see what the Liberate Editorial Collective are reading.

Prisoners of War – A benefit for Peter Young Various Artists

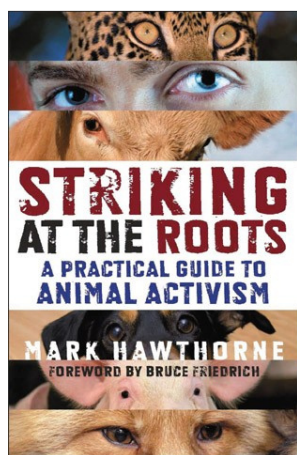
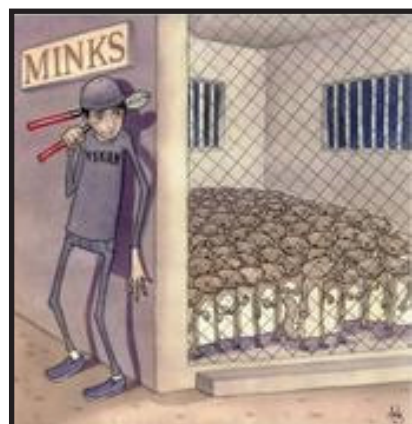
For those who don't know, Peter Young liberated thousands of mink from certain death. The fur farm raids he was involved in resulted in at least one farms' closure and caused massive economic loss to several farms in Midwest America. This was in 1997 and after seven years he was arrested for what he had done. He was also released last year.

The first thing I want to comment on is the cover art. The front shows Peter Young liberating the mink and the back of the cd shows him in a cell and the mink coming to liberate him. Awesome.

All the usual bands are here on this benefit CD. There's a good mix of hardcore and punk. Overall it's a good listen, it is aggressive but positive with motivating lyrics.

My favourite tracks were by Propagandi and Good Clean Fun. Also there are eight previously unreleased tracks by various artists. It's well worth checking out.

Rating:



Striking at the Roots: A Practical Guide to Animal Activism

By Mark Hawthorne

Striking at the Roots moves through the different tactics employed by animal rights activists throughout the world from leafleting and holding stalls to direct action and the legal system.

After reading this book I could not help feeling a little disappointed. While the book clearly details the way in which to carry out these different tactics, it does not really discuss the pro's and con's of using such tactics or what the activist is trying to achieve. Furthermore, the author did not push the reader to do more and often made comments along the lines of leafleting for an hour a week is enough.

Even so this book is a useful resource for those new to the movement. For those who has been involved in organising for a while, I don't think that you would really get anything out of Striking at the Roots.

For a more indepth look at this book visit:
<http://www.strikingattheroots.com/>

ON THE COLLECTIVE'S BOOKSHELF

As the World Burns: 50 simple things the world can do to stay in denial

By Derrick Jensen and Stephanie McMillan
(Graphic Novel)

From Dusk to Dawn

By Keith Mann
For a review see: <http://meatfreemedia.com>

Igniting a Revolution: voices in defence of the earth

By Steven Best and Anthony J. Nocella

Cunt: a declaration of independence

By Inga Muscio

DamNation - dispatches from the water underground

By Cleo Woelfle-Erskine

End Game Vol II

By Derrick Jensen

Striking at the Roots: a practical guide to animal activism

By Mark Hawthorne





Christchurch Open Rescue presents.....

TOOK A CHOOK BOOK: A BRIEF LOOK AT LIFE FOR LIBERATED CHOOKS

The following are excerpts from a new zine to help you care for your liberated hens. If you don't have any liberated hens this zine also covers how you might go about getting some.

The Safe House

This is something that needs sorting, basically the birds need a quiet and safe place to chill for the time being until they are rehomed....also it need to be safe for the people. Food and water ought to be out already, keep the birds separate from any others already there.

In the morning you will most likely find a few eggs but the chooks will take a break for at least a few weeks, maybe up to a few months before laying again.

You can use earlier lists for check up of chooks. It is up to you how open you are, whether people come to you to pick up birds or they are dropped off etc.. Maybe it is best for the people at the safe house not to be involved in rescue but that is a hard call to make.

If you were to be caught by the filth there is a chance they will charge you with receiving stolen property on top of any other charges from rescue..... Fuck them though the guilty ones are the farmers, the industry and all those who hold the continuation of this capitalist profit driven society above the welfare of planet, animals and people...

The Chooks House

Perches are what the chooks will sleep on, as they have been rescued from cages this will be a new experience for them so you may have to go out at night and gently pick them up and try to encourage them to chill on the perch.

We used old broomsticks, however these I just read are maybe not big enough, a perch ought to be about 5 cm thick, it ought not be roughly cut as this can cause splinters in their feet, also try to avoid bark covering as this can be a home to little nasties that will love to get at the chooks like mites and fleas etc. Each bird needs at least 20cm of space at night and a perch ought to be around 30cm-ish off the ground. If it is higher keep an eye on the birds' feet, as constantly jumping or flapping down every morning can cause injury.

We do not feed our birds in their house 'cause it always gets messy, they stand on the tray and feed or water goes all over the floor. Then as the scratch up the feed all the straw goes out the door.

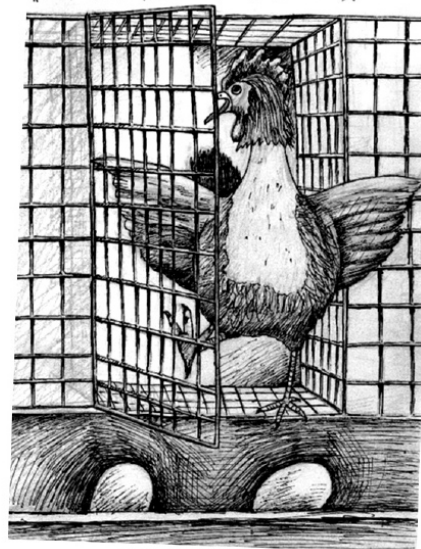
Chooks do not like to go to bed with wet muddy feet and it is not good for them. It would be good if you are able to try to have their home in a well drained area. If you happen to live in an area that was once a massive swamp like me then having something at the entrances may be a good idea, gravel or bricks etc. They will send gravel all over the place but it would still help. Straw is also good as they scratch it up and clean their feet on their way in.

Kai Time

Green stuff, this is one area that me and the chooks came into a bit of conflict. I was quietly stoked that some stuff had grown in the

TOOK-A-CHOOK-BOOK

BREAK FREE!



A BRIEF LOOK AT LIFE FOR LIBERATED CHOOKS

backyard so were they. I had attempted to keep them out with a fence but this was a joke. At first they could simply fly over it. Eventually I think they actually teamed upon it and systematically attacked the weak spots (of which they had a few choices). They are now restricted which makes green even more important.

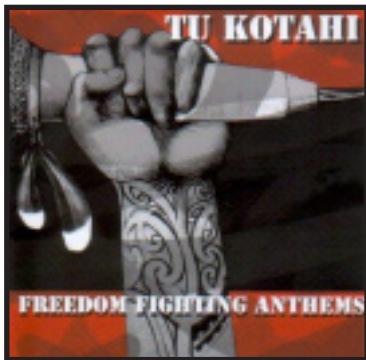
As you wander about town or visit friends keep the chooks in mind, chick weed and doc are a couple of favourites, try all sorts of stuff and see. Simple lawn clippings are good, just mix it up. Be careful not to import nastiness like tradiscantia or convolvulus or any of the numerous other weeds around that want to take over like the day of the truffods.

When collecting kai another thing to keep in mind is that nasty pesticides unfortunately get sprayed freely about as if they were fine and non residual poisons!

Copies available in all good infoshops or from <http://katipo.net.nz/>

Tu Kotahi – Freedom Fighting Anthems Various Artists

This two disc CD set is full of surprises. Don't be fooled by the first few tracks of disc one, it's not a throwback to bad 90s hip hop in NZ. On the contrary, there is a mix of genres and artists, mostly reggae inspired with some 70s funk sound, punk, ska, hardcore and even some spoken word.



Each of the tracks have challenging, politically motivated lyrics which are relevant to the struggles of the people of Aotearoa.

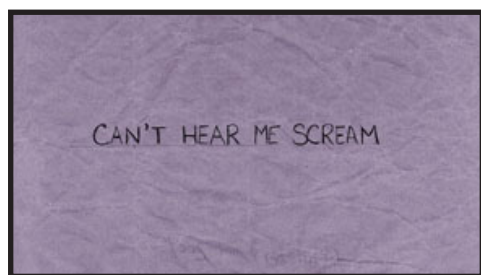
The best tracks have to be 'Danger' by Verse Two with it's haunting female vocals and soulful sounds.

As well as the ever funky Olmecha Supreme track "Black and Gold."

Also listen out for Cornerstone Roots, The Managers and the Capitalist Cheerleaders.

<http://freedomfighterscd.org.nz/>

Rating: 



CAN'T HEAR ME SCREAM

By Valerie Morse

"They can imprison our bodies but our hearts and minds will always be FREE."

An account written while inside prison from Valerie Morse — one of the 'Urewera 16' — of life in prison, the bureaucracy and arbitrary exercise of power, and how those on the outside can support those trapped within.

Can be downloaded from <http://www.rebelpress.org.nz/>

Voices against the wind : a history of ethical vegetarianism and animal rights in Aotearoa

To refuse to eat meat or drink milk in a country where the economy relies heavily on the beef and dairy industries, and where the national dish is roast lamb, is to be a dissident and a rebel. To campaign for the rights of animals, is to go one step further. This year I began working on *Voices against the wind*, a history of vegetarians, anti-vivisectionists, and animal rights activists in Aotearoa from the time of the vegetarian tupuna Toi-Kai-Rakau of Te Tai Rawhiti up until the early twenty first century. I'm



planning a 2-year project, to be published by Rebel Press in early 2010.



Drawing on print and oral history sources, this project will acknowledge the hard work and courage of activists (many of them women) who have dedicated their lives to creating a more just world for all living beings. I hope to record the tales and celebrate the lives of a diverse group of animal activists. I also hope to show the linkages between political movements. Early vegetarians spoke out on a wide range of issues — from peace and labour rights to prison reform, and feminism. Today animal activists work on a comparable range of issues.



So it's about telling unheard stories and recording the history of our movement! Please get in touch if you have stories you would like to contribute to *Voices against the wind*. I'm particularly interested in contacting or learning about people who are known as activists in other movements, but are also vegetarian or vegan animal rights supporters. Also, I am looking for tales on what it was like to be a vegetarian/vegan before the nineteen-eighties. (I'm still trying to find the first vegan in Aotearoa!). I'm a little worried that the book will be largely made up of Pakeha perspectives, so any stories that challenge the stereotype of a white middle-class movement would be extremely welcome!

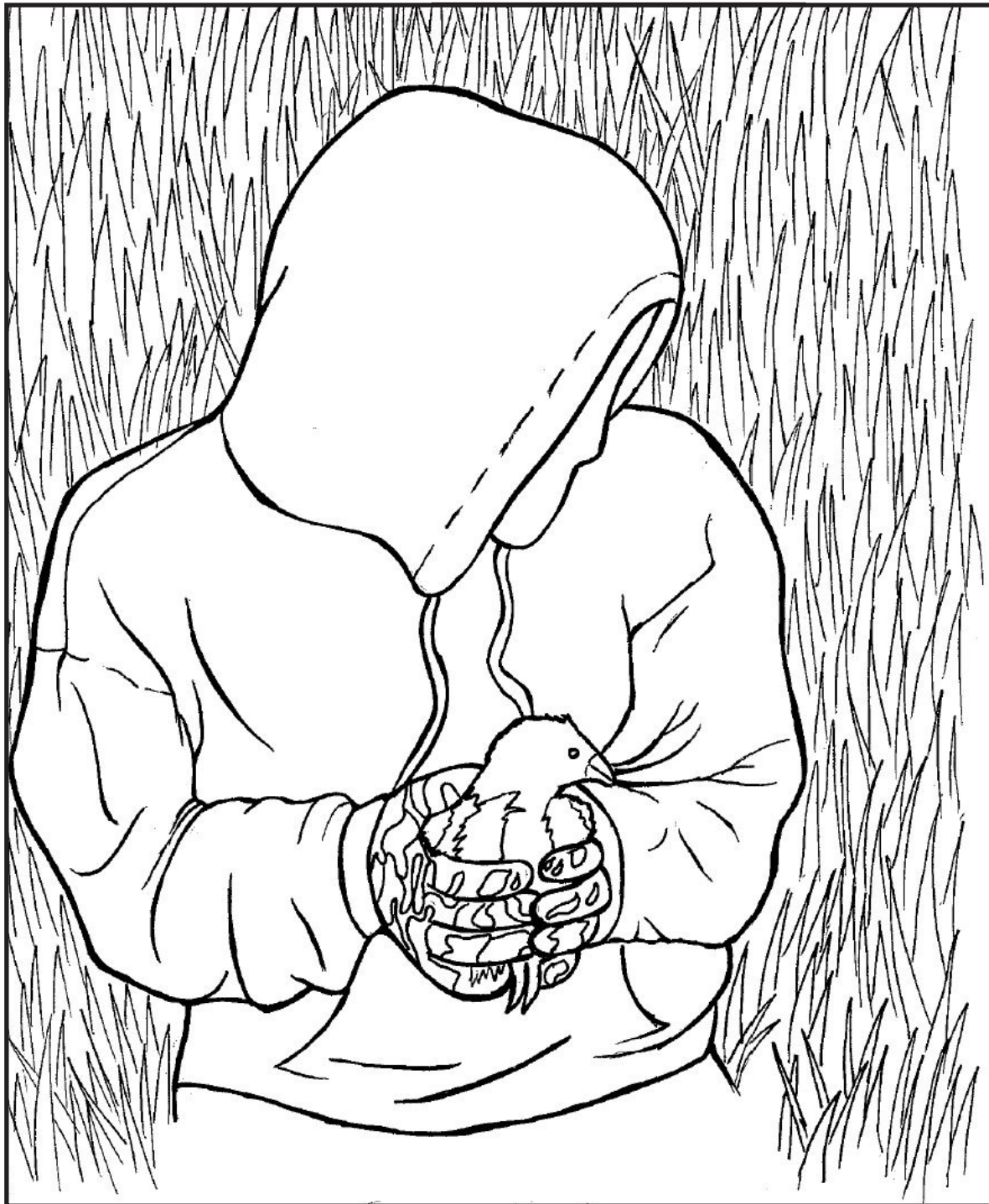
Please contact Catherine at scorpii18@hotmail.com.





activities page

colouring in competition



All of us need to take a break from time to time to remain effective and avoid burn out. In light of this we would like to introduce you to the the activities page. This volume we have a colouring in competition. The best entry will recieve a copy of 'Striking at the Roots' by Mark Hawthorne. Happy colouring.

Name: Address:

The deadline is June 30th 2008. Please send completed entries to Liberate, PO BOX 7523, Wellesley Street, Auckland.



YOUR DIRECTORY TO ANIMAL LIBERATION IN AOTEAROA

ARLAN (Animal Rights Legal Advocacy Network)

ARLAN is New Zealand's premier animal law organisation. ARLAN works to promote and protect the interests of those who cannot speak for themselves.

www.arlan.org.nz/Homepage.html

Email: contact@arlan.org.nz

Auckland Animal Action

Auckland grassroots animal liberation group; the primary campaigns are Fur Free Auckland, factory farming and SHAC support as well as helping with re-homing abused animals.

www.aucklandanimalaction.org.nz

Email: aucklandanimalaction@yahoo.com

Meat Free Media

A major focus of Meat Free Media is to generate various forms of media in order to educate people on what happens to animals.

www.meatfreemedia.com

Email: general@meatfreemedia.com

NAVC (National Anti – Vivi- section Cam- paign)



NAVC investigate and expose the activities of the vivisection industry in New Zealand. We hold public meetings,

street stalls and protests, including major national anti vivisection protests.

<http://www.stopvivisection.org.nz/about.htm>

E m a i l :
navc@animal-liberation.org.nz

NZ Open Rescue Collective

New Zealand Open Rescue is a collective of animal rights activists from cities all over the country who openly investigate animal abuse industries and rescue animals.

www.openrescue.org/

Email: nzopenrescue@yahoo.co.nz

SAFE (Save Animals From Exploitation)

SAFE is a national animal rights organisation that is actively involved in campaigns to protect the welfare of all animals.

www.safe.org.nz

Email: safe@safe.org.nz

Save the Beagles

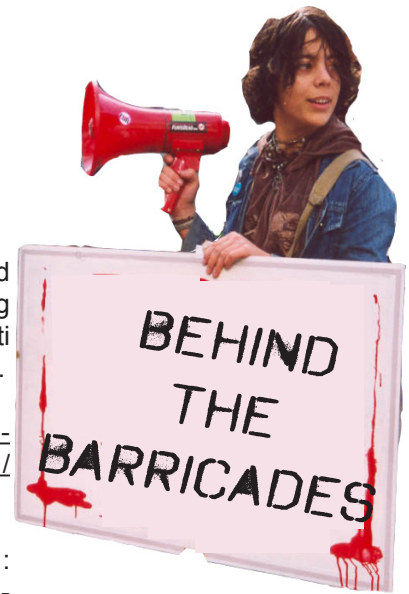
Save the Beagles aim to highlight the continued suffering of the VARC (Valley Animal Research Centre) beagles and to call for a ban on scientific research using cats and dogs.

www.varc.org.nz

Email: nzarinfo@gmail.com

WARN (Wellington Animal Rights Network)

Wellington based grassroots animal liberation group. The primary campaigns are vivisection and factory farming.





'Animal liberation is not a campaign, not just a hobby to be put aside when it becomes tiresome or a new interest catches your eye. It's a long war. A long hard war in which all the countless millions of its victims have been on one side only, have been defenseless and innocent. Whose tragedy was to be born non-human'

Robin Webb