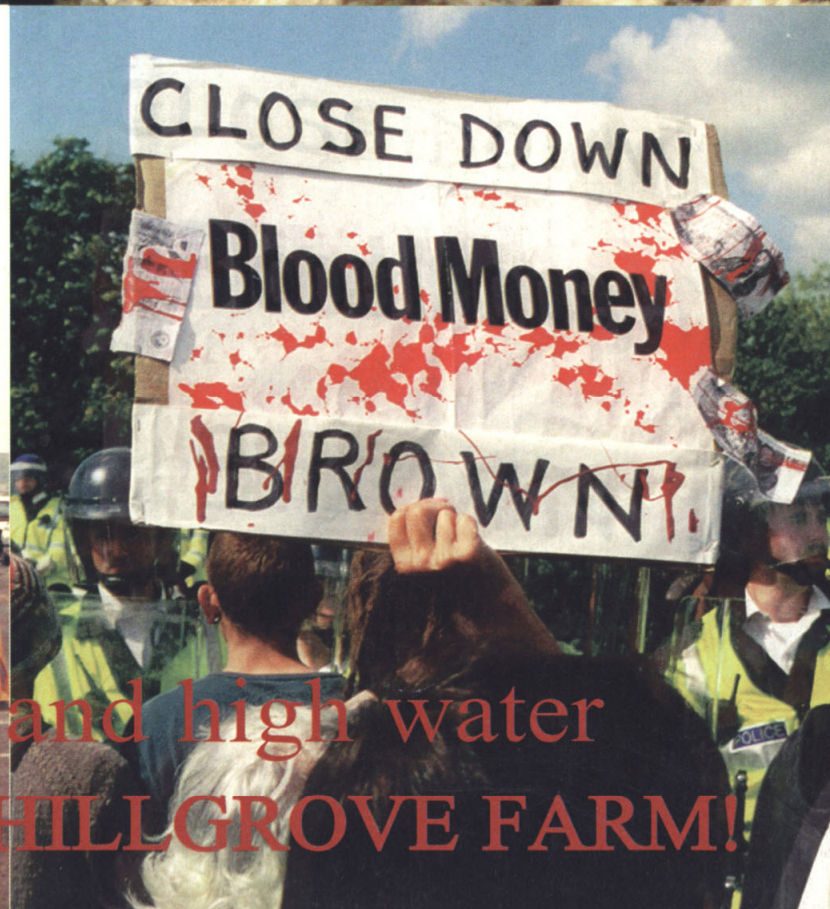


# The Hillgrove Campaign

*Newsletter No. 7*

0121 632 6460

SAVE THE HILLGROVE CATS, BOX CB, 111 MAGDALEN RD, OXFORD. OX4 1RQ



Through hell and high water  
**WE WILL CLOSE HILLGROVE FARM!**



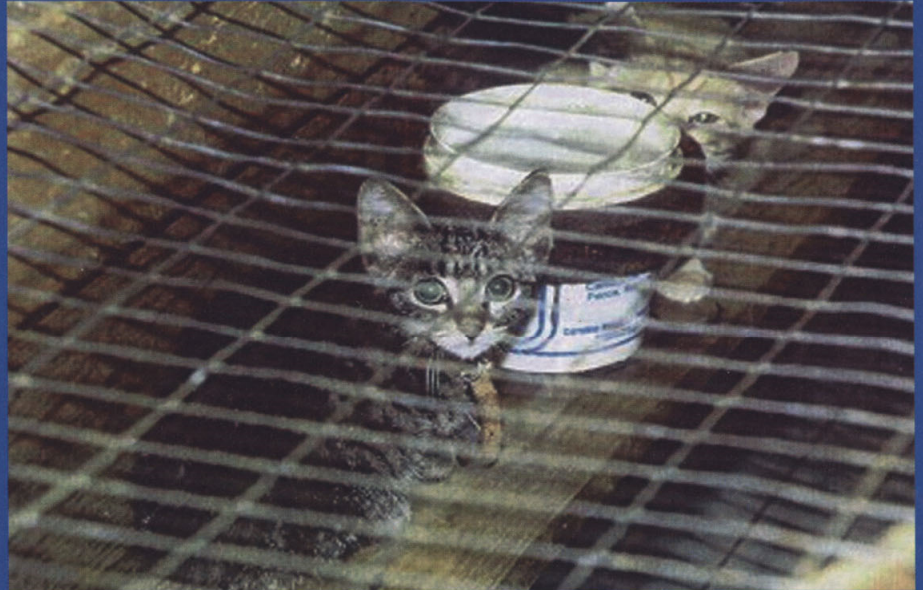
# ANOTHER VET SPEAKS OUT

“To Deprive Cats of Fresh Air, the Wind in their Whiskers and the Sun on their backs is an Abuse.” -

Maureen Hutchison, BSc, BVMS, MRCVS Veterinary Surgeon,  
Cert. Companion Animal Behaviour Counselling.

Maureen Hutchison is the veterinary advisor for the Cat Action Trust (P.O. Box 2202, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM23 2SW) and one of many vets who support “Save the Hillgrove Cats”. We don't think there are many people much better qualified to comment on the welfare, health and treatment of cats as well as their behaviour and needs.

We have produced a questionnaire which has been sent to a wide range of people and organisations such as the Cats Protection League, RSPCA, vets, cat sanctuaries, cat breeders, animal behaviourists and vivisectionists. The questionnaire covers all aspects of cat husbandry. Most of the questions are very basic such as - “What is the minimum age a kitten can be weaned from its mother?” and “At what age is the queen old enough to breed from?”



Maureen told us that the queen should be over 18 months before she is used for breeding. Christopher Brown breeds from queens as young as 10 months.

Maureen recommends at least three months rest between litters provided the queen is fed a high protein and calcium diet.

Christopher Brown allows breeding queens to be put back in with the Tom as soon as her kittens are weaned.

**We asked Maureen** - “What physical and mental effects would producing a litter every five months, over several years, have on a queen?”

**Answer:- M.H.** “If a litter was produced every five months, this would mean only one month between weaning and conception. This would not give sufficient time to replace her body stores of calcium or to regain body-weight. With each successive pregnancy she would lose more calcium from her bones. Physically she would deteriorate if this was continued for several years and she is more likely to develop low levels of calcium in her blood around the time of birth. This causes uterine inertia (i.e. difficulty in giving birth) or tetanic convulsions. Both of these could be fatal if emergency treatment is not given. She is more likely to cannibalise her kittens since she herself would be in poor condition and this is one of the recognised causes of cats killing their own kittens.

Maureen recommends kittens are weaned no earlier than 8 weeks.

Christopher Brown sells kittens at 5 weeks old without their mothers and as young as 13 days with their mother.



Christopher Brown claims that cats only eat their own kittens when they are deformed. Experts tell us that a deformed kitten is usually pushed out of the nest and left to die- NOT EATEN. Records from Hillgrove indicate Kittens that have birth defects such as a cleft palate die and are not eaten.

/	♂	GT/w	100			delt palate	39.2
/	♀	DT/w	100			delt palate	37.50
/	♀	GT	100g			no Tail swollen belly Died	22-9
—	♂	ST	100g	—	crooked neck.	P.O.	10/3/93.
—	♀	G./w	80g		Died Cleft Palate.	10/2/93.	—
/	♂	ST/w	100g		Cleft Palate =	Died	22-3-92

Q. Do cats kept in a caged environment, with other cats destined for animal research need human contact? If so how often?

M.H. "It goes without saying that if the scientists expect to be able to handle the cats, they need to be used to being handled. They only accept handling readily if they are handled as kittens, the sensitive period being from 2-7 weeks (Karsh and Turner, 1988). Once a day for 40 minutes was considered adequate by these workers."

There are 1,000 cats and kittens at Hillgrove farm. Around four workers have 7 hours on a week day and approx. 4 hours on a weekend to clean, feed, groom, monitor births, keep records, help with tattooing and pack kittens of the required weight, sex and age into boxes etc. It doesn't take a mathematician to work out that it is physically impossible for each worker to give adequate attention to 250 cats and kittens. There isn't enough time in the day for them to spend even one minute with each cat.

No wonder Hillgrove cats have a reputation amongst laboratory technicians of being "difficult" to handle

Q. How many mealtimes a day are suitable for a cats digestive system?

M.H. Cats are nibble feeders and ideally should have constant access to food. Otherwise twice daily is a minimum but 3-4 times would relieve boredom in caged cats.

*Note- Cats at Hillgrove farm are kept in groups of between 10 and 40 and are fed once a day. With so few workers at Hillgrove (between 3 and 5 workers are seen a day) it would be impossible to watch all of the cats at feeding time and ensure timid cats were receiving their fair share. Yet more stress in their lives.*

Q. What are the signs of psychological imbalance in cats?

M.H. Cats respond to stress by (1) spending more time awake and alert instead of relaxed and sleeping (2) attempting to hide (Carlstead et al). When they are not provided with adequate places to hide they respond by "feigning sleep" (Pfeiderer 1990) in an attempt to withdraw from an intolerable situation.

Psychological imbalance due to extreme or prolonged stress or boredom due to thwarting of their normal behaviour is evinced as sudden irrational attacking; withdrawal and lack of interest in life; neglecting to groom; excessive compulsive grooming; constant licking of one place causing a sore; constant pacing. See animal boredom (Wemelsfelder 1993).

Maureen Hutchinson is a true cat lover who is prepared to speak up on their behalf, not only that but she is also well qualified to speak on scientific grounds as a vet and companion animal behaviour counsellor. Christopher Brown on the other hand, when asked if he had any qualifications said "Well I've been doing what I'm doing for years." Hardly a qualification!!

We are very grateful to the army of experts who have come forward and spoken out on behalf of the Hillgrove cats.



# JULY 11TH DEMO

The last rally and demonstration against Hillgrove farm was planned to take place in Witney at the Leys recreation ground. This was decided so that people could focus on what our speakers had to say. Speakers for the day were Dr. Vernon Coleman, Dr. Tony Page, Chris Iles, Celia Hammond and Andrew Butler (PETA). About 2 weeks before the rally we discovered that Witney carnival was to be held at the Leys as well!!! No problem. On the day we planned to direct people to the playing fields next door which, as it turned out, was a much better venue. There was a lot more space, which was excellent as we were expecting this to be the biggest demo so far.

## DESPERATE TACTICS

The rally was to start at 12 noon. At 10am that morning, as we were setting up the PA system, there was an announcement on Fox FM news that the police were setting up a five mile exclusion zone around Witney to prevent the rally against Hillgrove farm taking place!

Two men who were setting up the PA system and putting up arrows to direct people were arrested for inciting people to break the exclusion order. Needless to say they were released without charge and are expecting a cheque from Thames Valley Police for wrongful arrest which will ALL go towards campaign funds. Thankyou!

There was a total of seven road blocks around the Oxford ring road and every road into Witney road blocked with almost every car being stopped causing massive traffic jams. The excuse for this oppressive behaviour was Witney carnival. The police claimed we would "interfere" with it! A pathetic excuse. Everyone on their way to the rally was there to close down Hillgrove farm and were not remotely interested in Witney carnival!

One protester rang and told us that the police officer who stopped her was very apologetic and said he "didn't want to do this" and told her she "would be surprised how many police officers were opposed to Hillgrove farm" and wanted it to "hurry up and close down." Other police officers were as obnoxious as ever.

## BACKLASH

A massive operation was launched by us to get as many demonstrators to Pear tree services (just outside Oxford) as possible.

It was a wonderful sight to see the numbers gradually swell until there were almost a thousand. The manager of the services was a jolly fellow and very supportive of the campaign. The plan was to march to Oxford University's physiology department (Parks road Oxford) where Hillgrove cats are used in vicious eye-sight and brain experiments by Professor Colin Blakemore amongst others.

The police didn't have a clue what was going on but large numbers of riot vans started to arrive with sirens blaring. So a decision was made to move off before they could block us in and prevent the march. It was a long march to the physiology department but people were fired up and determined.

## UNSTOPPABLE

The atmosphere was electric as people became aware of their own strength and power that will cause the inevitable closure of Hillgrove farm.

There were many megaphones in action along the Woodstock road and the residents of Oxford were in no doubt as to what we were all about and were very supportive. The police blocked the road but protesters merely detoured down side roads giving the police the run around.

The police seemed strangely quieter and less violent than usual. Could it be because they were being watched by the people of Oxford? The mood of the march was very upbeat and there was a lot of press, radio and T.V. coverage. The people of Oxford were able to hear speeches by Celia Hammond and Chris Iles who both spoke brilliantly and with passion as usual.

Despite the police's efforts to prevent us getting to the physiology department over 50 people made it there. There was also a demonstration at Professor Colin Blakemore's house and a lot of people made it to Hillgrove farm. Which just goes to show that we cannot be beaten. The day was a huge success in spite of the drenching rain! And the spoilsport Police!

The grand finale was an impromptu march around the Wolvercote roundabout as people made their way back to Pear Tree. Again police looked flummoxed and dumbfounded as they awaited instructions as to what to do with this disobedient collection of cat lovers, anti-vivisectionists, nurses, doctors, vets, pensioners, war veterans, dogs and children.

We spoke to people who were on their first ever demo and they were all booking places on the coach for September 6th.



Traffic chaos was caused on the A40 and A34. If the police had allowed the rally in Witney none of that would have happened. Many people caught up in the traffic jams were given leaflets and chatted with demonstrators and said such things as "no problem", "we support you" etc.

## SEPTEMBER 6TH

Hillgrove demos are always a success and the campaign is now unstoppable, join us for the biggest rally and demonstration against Hillgrove Farm at the Leys recreation ground Witney (next to Sainsbury's). Sunday 6th September 1998 12 NOON. Phone number for the day 0121-632-6460 or 0171-278-3068.

The legal feedback is that they will be hard pressed to ban the next demo as there will be no convenient excuse (Witney carnival). Rest assured many contingency plans will be in operation on the day. Please use the contact telephone numbers and if you've got a mobile telephone contact number ring this through to the campaign (0121-6326460) before the day.

## TRUE COLOURS

The police's enforcement of the exclusion zone was approved by West Oxfordshire District council and Jack Straw (Home Secretary) ultimately made the order. The exclusion zone was enforced under the Public Order Act 1986 section 14a trespassory assembly. It has only ever been used once before to prevent people going to Stonehenge. We see it as desperation on the part of the police. We are a force to be reckoned with, they have just used their trump card and we are still winning and growing stronger all the time. The police have no more tricks up their sleeve. They honestly believed that the exclusion zone would force people to go home. You'd think they would know us better by now.

WE WILL NEVER WALK AWAY FROM THE HILLGROVE CATS.

## SUPPORTERS EVERYWHERE

One protestor who made it to the physiology department returned to their car which was parked in the centre of Oxford to find a traffic warden hovering over it. With some trepidation our friend approached and was asked "Are you part of the demonstration?" when the traffic warden was told "yes" he said "oh well I was going to give you a ticket but I won't now because I support your campaign." The traffic warden then radioed through to find the best route out of Oxford to avoid all the traffic jams & road blocks! We have friends everywhere.

Friday, July 17, 1998

THE OXFORD TIMES

Police exclusion zone at Witney causes cat protesters to change venue

# Traffic chaos as demo switches to Oxford

HUNDREDS of animal rights protesters marched into Oxford causing traffic chaos after they were banned from demonstrating in west Oxfordshire.

A five-mile exclusion zone imposed around Witney stopped them holding a rally in Station Lane, Witney,

followed by a march to Hillgrove Farm, the cat breeding centre at Minster Lovell.

Police said that they banned Saturday's protest, with the backing of the Home Secretary, Mr Jack Straw, because of fears that it would clash with Witney's annual carnival which was being

By Sarah Brown

held in the same area. Fifteen people were arrested during the day.

After failing to break the police cordon in west Oxfordshire, Save the Hillgrove Cats campaigners made for the Oxford University Department

of Physiology which, they say, uses Hillgrove cats for experiments.

Traffic came to a standstill as more than 500 marched into the city.

After police blocked their way, some moved to the home of Prof Colin Blakemore, Oxford University professor of physiology.

Police had sealed the end of the road and there were angry scenes as officers told protesters to leave or risk being arrested.

Ms Linda Day, from Wiltshire, was furious at the protest being banned. She said: "I came out on a perfectly peaceful rally. I think this is a hideous, ludicrous overreaction. How much is this costing?"

Earlier, traffic queues built up around Witney as police stopped cars going through seven checkpoints on roads into the town.

Police spotters looked for known activists and for those with obvious signs that they were attending the protest.

Ms Heather James, of Save the Hillgrove Cats, said: "It has been a good day. It just shows you, when the police

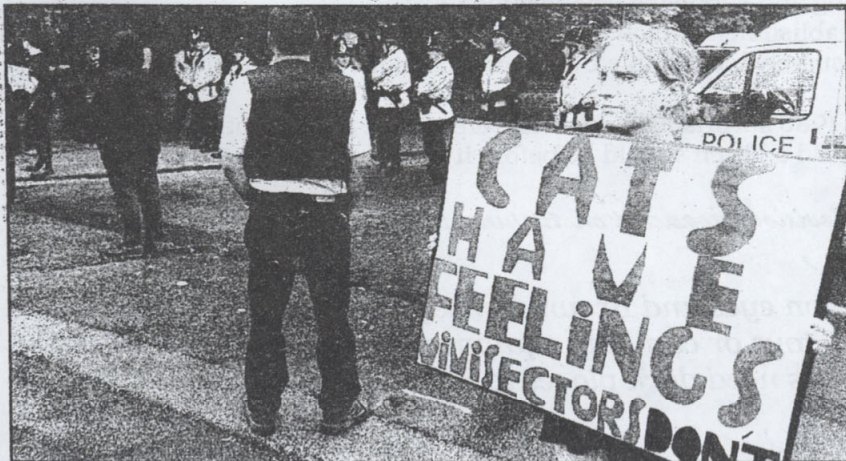
try to stop us going to Witney, the anger comes out somewhere else. It can't be stopped. They would have been better off letting us march."

A Thames Valley Police spokesman, Mr Richard Goodfellow, said that the cost of policing the operation ran into tens of thousands of pounds.

He said: "Thames Valley Police feel the cost of this operation is justified. Policing Hillgrove Farm is an expensive thing but it is something we give priority."

Police said five women were arrested on suspicion of committing offences at previous demonstrations. They were taken to Cowley police station and bailed pending further inquiries.

The other ten arrested protesters were taken to Newbury police station. One was charged with breaking the exclusion order, two men were charged with obstructing the highway and two with public order offences and one was cautioned. The others were bailed pending further inquiries.





# THE LORD WILLIAMS OF MOSTYN

I am sure that everyone who has written to their MPs to complain about the plight of the cats at Hillgrove farm have received a copy of a reply sent to their MP from Lord Williams of Mostyn.

The Lord Williams of Mostyn is the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and can be written to at: **The Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.**

Lord Williams does not appear to know a lot about vivisection himself and regularly takes advice from the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and continually refers to the Animals Scientific Procedures Act 1986 (a waste of paper). Lord Williams has never visited Hillgrove farm.

**We will take apart Lord Williams letters about Hillgrove to help you with your answers to him. We have sent Lord Williams a full set of breeding records from Hillgrove farm.**

[1] L.W " *The breeding record sheets you have supplied have been carefully examined* ". By whom?

[2] L.W " *The records do contain entries which might appear upsetting* " They are upsetting, there is no "appear" about it.

[3] L.W " *Birth abnormalities and still born kittens occur in a natural setting....* "

So Lord Williams admits that Hillgrove cats are kept in an unnatural setting.

[4] L.W " *.....and the pre-weaning losses which are described in the records will not be dissimilar to those found in commercial catteries which breed kittens for the domestic market* "

Where is the evidence of this? All of the cat breeders we have spoken to have never encountered one of their queens eating her own kittens. Out of all the cat sanctuaries we have spoken to there was only one example of a cat eating a kitten, she was a feral cat and stressed due to captivity. Is Lord Williams referring to the equivalent of a puppy farm? If so then we would expect a similar pre-weaning mortality rate due to the stress, ill health and appalling conditions.

Where is his evidence to support his claim?

Quote from the Animals Scientific Procedures Act 1986 Codes of Practice (page 18 [3,44]) "Breeding performance is a sensitive barometer of good husbandry and therefore of the welfare of the animals.....an unsympathetic or poorly trained animal technician can affect the performance of the breeding colony leading to reduced fertility, an increase in pre and post weaning mortality.....these effects will often precede any obvious signs of clinical ill health".

[5] L.W " *It is evident that a high proportion of these losses occur in the queens with their first litter who are, in any situation, inexperienced in rearing their young* " .

"Cats seldom have physical problems in giving birth" - Bruce Fogle (vet and animal behaviourist) author of - "The Cat's Mind" It is evident that Lord Williams has not studied the records because they quite clearly show cats of four or five years of age eating their own kittens.

[6] L.W " *I have been advised by the Animal Scientific Procedures Inspectorate that there is no evidence within these records to support malpractice* " .

Does Lord Williams ever take advice from an independent body? We do not expect the Home Office Inspectors to criticize Hillgrove farm, they obviously see nothing wrong with animal experiments (such as sewing kittens eyelids together), so how can they condemn queens and kittens kept in overcrowded conditions?

There are 10 cats listed in the breeding records who are not tattooed. This is a blatant breach of the Animals Scientific Procedures Act 1986:

Appendix III: Standard Conditions: Designated breeding and supplying establishments:-

"All primates, cats and dogs accommodated in the establishment which are bred or intended for breeding or supplying for use for scientific purposes shall be clearly and adequately identifiable by an acceptable method of marking agreed with the Inspector."

The Animal Scientific Procedures Act 1986 surprisingly does not refer to the number of litters a queen can produce or how long she should be rested, or how old a kitten should be before it is sold to a laboratory. How convenient!!!!

[7] L.W " *Ms. James also claims that based on a television broadcast on 1st June, the cats were kept in poor and overcrowded conditions* " .

This is true because I saw it with my own eyes and Brown himself admits the cats need more space. The television footage showed no toys or climbing equipment, the cats looked frightened and some were huddled up on a shelf. Cats need dark places to hide and these are not provided at Hillgrove farm.



Animal Scientific Procedures Act 1986, Codes of Practice (page 16, 3.34) :

"All animals must be allowed adequate space to express a wide behavioural repertoire".

Maureen Hutchinson - MRCVS veterinary surgeon says "When cats are not provided with adequate places to hide they respond by feigning sleep (Pfeiderer, 1990) in an attempt to withdraw from an intolerable situation".

**[8] L.W** *"The cats also enjoy stimulation from contact with members of staff at Hillgrove".*

We hate to keep repeating ourselves, but there are only four members of staff at Hillgrove on week days, and even less at weekends with a thousand cats to "care for". There is no way these cats receive the human contact they need and are surely craving. The above statement from Lord Williams is inaccurate to say the least.

**[9] L.W** *"I am assured that, contrary to other reports, cats at Hillgrove are of a good temperament".*

Assured by whom?

**[10] L.W** *"I would like to reiterate that Hillgrove farm is operating within the terms and conditions of the 1986 Act....."*

The Animal Scientific Procedures Act 1986 is so full of loopholes that it is difficult to break it at all - but Brown manages to do it, as we have shown in points [1], [6], [7] & [8].

Also the statement below (we believe) shows that an individual cannot actually be prosecuted under the Act!!!

Animals Scientific Procedures Act 1986 (page 17,26) Prosecutions

1) No procedure for -

a) an offence under this act, or

b) an offence under section 1 of the Protection of Animals 1911 c.27. Act 1911.

We could not believe it either!!!!

**[11] L.W** *"It is a fact that it, (Hillgrove farm), is the only establishment in the United Kingdom that produces specific Pathogen Free cats and should it close, cats of this status will need to be imported. Regulations in another country relating to the conditions in which the animal is bred may be less stringent. This element would clearly have a detrimental effect on animal welfare".*

Sheer hypocrisy! How dare Lord Williams suggest that if cats are imported when Hillgrove farm closes their suffering is our fault.

He conveniently forgets to mention that Brown is free to export cats and kittens to any country in the world without restrictions. Hillgrove cats can be sent to countries with no animal protection laws!!!

Ask Lord Williams if he plans to ban the export and import of cats and kittens from Britain if he is so concerned about conditions abroad!

**[12] L.W** *"Cats bred at Hillgrove are high health status cats....."*

Where does Lord Williams get this information? The breeding records do not show this. Ex-worker Allie Moore said "Workers at the farm have smuggled out hundreds of cats and re-homed them by writing them off as dead.

Therefore it must be normal at Hillgrove farm for cats to be found dead! Hardly an indication of good health. Doesn't Brown want to see the body or request a post mortem? Does he care? Don't the Home Office Inspectors question the high mortality rate? Aren't they concerned? Of course not!

**[13] L.W** *".....their environment within the establishment is suitably enriched to provide some form of exercise".*

A bit vague Lord Williams. Ask him if he can elaborate or be more specific. Does he mean the cats have enough room to pace up and down their cages for hours on end? I suppose that could be seen as "some form of exercise".

**[14] L.W** *"With regard to staffing the Animal Scientific Procedures Inspectorate have monitored the staffing level of the establishment and are keeping the situation under review....."*

Another vague answer! Note Lord Williams does not say that staffing levels are satisfactory which THEY ARE NOT. In other words Lord Williams is perfectly well aware that staff levels are hopelessly inadequate, morale is at rock bottom and the cats suffer as a result. He knows this and is prepared to do NOTHING about it.

**[15] L.W** *"In conclusion I am satisfied that the establishment is operating within the terms and conditions of the 1986 Act and of its Certificate of Designation. I can therefore see no legitimate grounds to revoke the certificate."*

Lord Williams might as well say "I am turning a blind eye to cats kept in overcrowded conditions, cats suffering psychological stress, cats kept without being clearly identifiable, insufficient staffing levels and I can't be bothered to go to Hillgrove farm and have a look for myself." PATHETIC

**Please write to Lord Williams and voice your concerns. We recommend you keep questions simple and try to ask questions that require a yes or no answer - and demand a straight "yes" or "no". Take tips from Jeremy Paxman!**

If anyone wants a full set of breeding records please write and let us know. We would like to see copies of any replies you receive.



[16] L.W. "officials have scrutinized the video you provided, it is evident that most of the material originated in other countries or was quite old"

You can tell Lord Williams, in case he's forgotten, that the majority of Hillgrove cats are EXPORTED. Also ask him if he will provide us with up to date footage of cat experiments. Tell him we don't need to know where the experiments are taking place or who is responsible. Of course you know as well as I do that the answer will be no! We do have experiments in writing up to 1998 so we know the horrors cats and kittens are experiencing today at places such as the Physiology department at Oxford university. The trouble is a lot of experiments we will never know about because they are not published. The only way to obtain video footage is through undercover investigations.

Greens move to trim £700,000 cost of controlling protesters

# Call to scale down cat farm policing

By Gill Smith

THE Green Party has called for police operations at Hillgrove Farm to be scaled down. Green county councillor Ms Sushila Dhall asked Oxfordshire County Council on Tuesday to voice its concern about policing costs.

The council shared her concern about the "massive and continuing drain" of police resources and voted to invite the Chief Constable, Mr Charles Pollard, to talk with them.

Animal rights protesters have staged regular demonstrations at the farm at Minster Lovell, near Witney, which breeds cats for medical research.

Ms Dhall said that the cost of keeping law and order at the farm — about £700,000 — was significantly affecting the ability of police to deliver effective services elsewhere.

She claimed police had been acting as security guards for Hillgrove Farm,

leading to concern among many local people that the force was not taking an impartial stance.

Her motion said: "Police must scale down their services to a reasonable level. This would be the level necessary to control demonstrations if the farm had taken and paid for its share of the security measures."

The Liberal Democrats and Conservative groups presented an amendment,

accepted by Ms Dhall, stating that the county council recognised the difficulty police had in protecting the public's right to peaceful protest, the farm's right to pursue its lawful activity and the right of Oxfordshire residents for protection from crime and disorder.

Councillors voted to invite the chief constable or other senior officer to the next meeting of the public protection committee.

OXFORD TIMES JULY 24TH

## CELIA HAMMOND

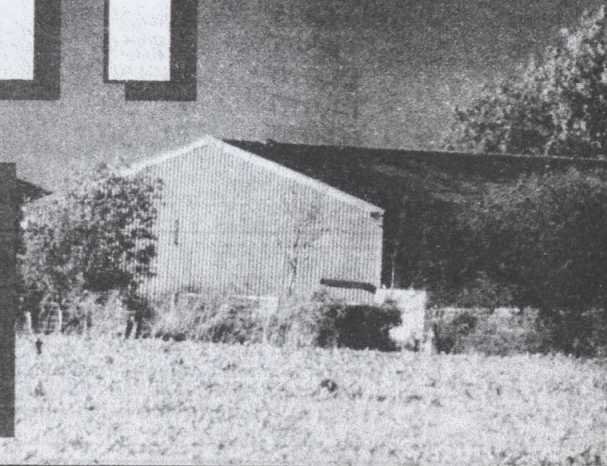
Celia Hammond is the famous model who has devoted her life to the welfare of cats. She runs an animal sanctuary and a spaying and neutering clinic in London. Celia has saved and re-homed thousands of cats and prevented probably millions of unwanted kittens being born.

A true cat lover, she has never lost sight of what we're all about and she always acts and speaks up for the cats interests. Celia supports "Save the Hillgrove Cats" and has spoken publicly at nearly all the Hillgrove demonstrations. The cats and kittens at Hillgrove farm need friends like Celia and everyone else who ever comes on a demonstration, makes a donation or writes a letter. Celia is one of the many experts coming forward to condemn the intolerable situation at Hillgrove farm. Thankyou Celia. See you on September 6th for the biggest demonstration against Hillgrove farm seen so far.



# Huge majority votes to close cat-breeding farm

# SHUT IT DOWN



OXFORD JOURNAL

## We want you shut down, say our readers

AN ARMY of angry *Oxford Journal* readers have sent a message to controversial cat breeder Chris Brown – “We want you to close down!”

A staggering 95 per cent of callers who took part in our phone poll wanted Hill Grove Farm shut down.

Just five per cent wanted the Witney centre – which is used to breed cats for medical research – to stay open.

Hundreds of people inundated our phone

lines, set up to discover your views on the Hill Grove Farm issue.

Heather James, of Save The Hill Grove Cats, said: “Excellent – I always expected to win. This proves we have support from people in Witney and Oxford who obviously don’t want Mr Brown on their doorstep.

“I have never seen demos at Hill Grove where people are campaigning for it to stay open.”

Protests at the farm have dominated the headlines for months, as animal rights campaigners step up their battle to force Chris Brown to close.

Police resources are becoming strained as more people join the campaign, with as many as 1,000 attending each event.

Thames Valley Police estimates that guarding Hill Grove has amounted to £700,000.

A HUGE majority of *Journal* readers say that the controversial cat-breeding farm at Hill Grove Farm should be shut down.

The results of our recent phone poll indicate that a massive 95 per cent of people would like to see the place closed for good.

The cost of policing the farm where animals are bred for laboratory experiments has now exceeded £700,000.

And such is the violence of the opposition to farmer Chris Brown that he has become the victim of hate mail in the form of a letter bomb from animal rights protesters.

● Full story on page three

## Who’s nicked our fence?

SOMEONE’S taken a fence!

The 10ft high police protection barricade was gone when Mark Chattoe, West Oxfordshire’s deputy director of planning, went to inspect it following a complaint. He decided it was illegal and should have temporary planning permission – but it had vanished overnight.

Police said the fence is necessary for safety and insist that if need be it will be put back up.

## BROWN FORCED TO CONFESS TO B&B GUESTS

Anyone who enquires about Brown’s B&B cottage is now automatically faxed or posted details of this side of his business. He has now added a significant paragraph to “tempt” potential customers.

### Farm house bed and breakfast

*At the farm, some 100 metres beyond the house, amongst the farm buildings we have a cat breeding colony. These cats are bred in purpose-built units free of cat viruses, for use in veterinary and medical research. The cats are well cared for and we are not involved in any research here. Recently we have become the subject of attention by Animal rights protestors, and as a result wish to advise you of the situation. We are aware of the dates of advertised protests and do not take bookings on these occasions, however we do sometimes have small groups of protestors at the drive entrance. We hope that this will not persist or interfere with your stay. Should you be concerned we would be pleased to help find you alternative accomodation.*

Therefore any guests at the B&B are not concerned with the cats and kittens imprisoned just a short distance away. Brown will not be happy that he has been forced to admit the nasty side of his business. Obviously it is only right that potential guests do know how Brown makes his money out of misery.



# EARLY DAY MOTION

## TORTURE OF CATS AND KITTENS

Cunliffe/Lawrence

48 SIGNATURES

09.06.98.

Stewart/Ian

Crausby/David

Austin/John

Chaytor/David

Davidson/Ian

Drew/David

Fearn/Ronnie

Hancock/Mike

Hoyle/Lindsay

Kumar/Ashok

Marsden/Gordon

Meale/Alan

O'Hara/Edward

Pollard/Kerry

Smith/Angela

Taylor/David

Vis/Rudi

Baker/Norman

Clarke/Eric

Dismore/Andrew

Ennis/Jeff

Fitzpatrick/Jim

Henderson/Ivan

Humble/Joan

Lewis/Ivan

McDonnell/John

Michie/Bill

Perham/Linda

Rapson/Syd

Steinberg/Gerry

Taylor/Matthew

Wareing/Robert N

Caplin/Ivor

Cryer/Ann

Dobbin/Jim

Etherington/Bill

Godman/Norman A

Hopkins/Kelvin

Keetch/Paul

Loughton/Tim

McNamara/Kevin

Moffatt/Laura

Pickthall/Colin

Russell/Bob

Stinchcombe/Paul

Tyler/Paul

Wyatt/Derek

That this House condemns the appalling and deplorable trade practice at establishments which breed cats and kittens for the vivisection industry and sell them to laboratories world-wide; notes that some of these kittens are only six weeks old when they are subjected to horrific experiments; and calls upon the Home Secretary to investigate this cruel trade with a view to banning these barbaric practices which put profit before humanity.

### EARLY DAY MOTION

As you can see above 48 M.P.s have signed an early day motion in parliament against the "deplorable trade practice at establishments which breed cats and kittens for the vivisection industry." This obviously refers to Hillgrove Farm. There are 659 M.P.s in the house of commons so please write to your M.P. quoting "E.D.M. 1409- Torture of cats and kittens" and ask them to sign it. Also write to Lawrence Cunliffe M.P. And thank him for putting this E.D.M. forward at: **THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1A 0AA**

## 200,000 SIGNATURES TO CLOSE HILLGROVE FARM

A petition with over 200,000 signatures was handed in to the Home Office on Wednesday 29th July 1998. Thankyou to all those people who collected signatures and are continuing to do so, the petitions are still flooding in. The local papers covered the story and television cameras from Central News South and Sky news turned up for the event. Hundreds of leaflets were issued to passers by. **WE ARE STILL COLLECTING SIGNATURES** and will continue till Hillgrove is closed, so please contact us if you need any more forms.



# DIRTY FINGERS IN DIRTY PIES

In the last newsletter we reprinted a Hillgrove advert from the Laboratory Animals Buyers Guide. It is worth looking again at this advert especially the part which includes "Status: Accredited SPF. Category AAA by MRC. Laboratory Animal Centre Scheme 1997 - 1983. Accredited 'Barrier' bred under Laboratory Animal Breeders Accreditation Scheme from 1983"

It came out at Oxford Crown Court that during the raid in 1997 the cats which were captured and returned to the farm were simply shoved back in the sheds.

We took expert advice on this and the opinion gained was that there was a high likelihood that this would have 'contaminated' the sheds and so Hillgrove farm.

The MRC Accreditation is irrelevant as it finishes in 1983, so that just leaves the Laboratory Animals Breeders Accreditation Scheme (run by the Laboratory Animals Breeders Association). We rang LABASS on 141 01480 455335 Fax 141 01480 455355 and asked them their views on the 'contamination' revelation, they said they were not interested and promptly put the phone down! Further investigations revealed that LABASS were not an independent body at all but were actually based at Interfauna (beagle breeders for vivisection) at Abbots Ripton road, Wyton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 2DT. A quick trip to companies house revealed some astonishing facts. Most notably that Mr. Brown of Hillgrove farm was a director of LABASS!! To put this into context there is no independent accreditation for S.P.F. Status as Hillgrove is the director of the Association giving them the accreditation, which is a bit like Ford awarding themselves Car maker of the year i.e. Totally worthless. The rest of the directors and secretaries are from Interfauna, Shamrock farms (monkey importers/exporters) B&K Universal (monkey, beagle and rodent breeders), Harlan U.K. (rodent, beagle & rabbit breeders), Charles River (monkey breeder)

## ACTION

Write to Lord Williams of Mostyn, The Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT and ask which independent body oversees that Hillgrove's S.P.F. status is correct, valid and current.

### Wrong tactic

THE drastic action of the police in imposing the draconian five-mile exclusion zone may serve to illustrate how effective they feel the Hillgrove protesters are in achieving their aims. However, it is a direct breach of paragraph 19 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights which states that we all have the right to hold our own views and freely impact them to others.

In preventing a peaceful rally the police prevented people doing exactly that.

They also caused enormous problems. Instead of a planned, peaceful rally in a park they had an unplanned march through Oxford which brought traffic to a standstill. Although the demonstrators' behaviour was exemplary the spontaneous nature of the revised event created problems of its own.

Certainly the residents of Oxford must be furious their neighbourhood should be used as another tool in the power games the police seem to be playing.

It is clear this debacle was the

wrong tactic for the police to use. Even so if they did manage to prevent demonstrations Hillgrove's problems would be far from over. In recent months the owner has been exposed as a liar when it was proved that 13-day-old kittens go for experiments. Local opposition has become massive and the council have ordered the removal of his illegally erected fence.

Meanwhile it is becoming more and more accepted among the medical and lay community that experiments on cats and other animals are unreliable for medical purposes. According to the scientific director of a major UK animal lab animal tests are wrong 75 to 95% of the time. There is growing pressure on the government to introduce genuine legislation to protect the welfare of animals, which would surely close Hillgrove due the cost of implementing it.

I would be amazed to see Hillgrove in commercial operation 12 months from now, with the police bending over backwards to help it or not.

**Christopher Clarke**  
Ducklington Lane, Witney

### Peaceful demo

I WOULD like to take this opportunity to reply to the *Witney Gazette* Opinion column on July 15.

First of all the date for the rally and demonstration against Hillgrove Farm was decided over two months ago. We had no idea it was to clash with Witney Carnival. When we found out we arranged for the rally to take place in the Henry Box playing fields next door. I cannot emphasise enough that we had no intention of interfering with Witney Carnival. What would be the point?

I am very happy that the people of Witney had a good carnival. In the meantime, there are thousands of cats imprisoned at Hillgrove Farm. The *Gazette* said we were "likely to make more enemies than friends", but it is the Hillgrove cats who need friends, not us.

The May 31 demonstration was peaceful and so was the march into Oxford on July 11 after the police ordered a five-mile exclusion zone around Witney.

Regular demonstrators range from people who fought in the war, children, doctors, vets, nurses, university and college lecturers etc — a cross section of the people.

Witney carnival was an excuse for the exclusion zone. One day people may want to fight for their jobs or speak out against what they believe to be unjust. The police will try to crush and silence them also.

We will not rest until Hillgrove Farm is closed and all of the cats re-homed.

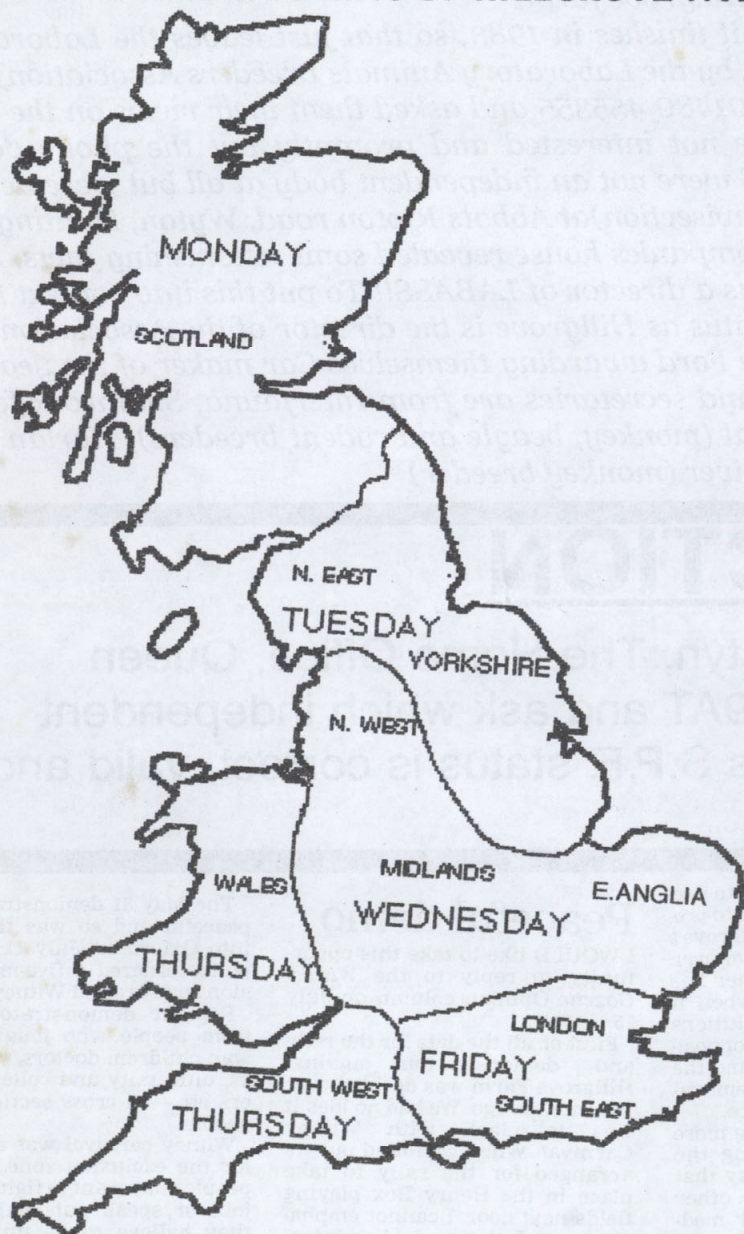
**Heather James**  
Save the Hillgrove Cats

WITNEY GAZETTE



# IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED....

MANY PEOPLE HAVE RUNG THE CAMPAIGN TO SAY THEY HAVE HAD PROBLEMS GETTING THROUGH TO HILLGROVE FARM 141-01993-703120. AS IT IS OFTEN ENGAGED, TO BE FAIR TO EVERYONE, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO SPLIT THE U.K. UP INTO AREAS TO RING UP HILLGROVE WITH QUESTIONS.



PLEASE DON'T BE DETERRED  
FROM RINGING HILLGROVE FARM  
TEL 141-01993-703120  
FAX 141-01993-700528  
DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE  
FOBBED OFF WITH SILLY  
ANSWERS AND UNTRUE  
STATEMENTS.  
**BE FIRM**

**NEWS** Reaches us from a supporter  
that when you send a black piece of  
paper through a fax machine  
(apparently called a black fax)  
it causes the recipients fax  
machine to use up a lot of ink.

Please photocopy this page and pass  
it on to family, friends, work  
mates and the nice man/woman in the  
street.

**"You just don't bloody realise that  
you're winning!"**

Susan O'Shea ex-worker to demonstrators on the gate  
one Sunday morning six weeks before she left.



# What's happening when

## AUGUST

Wednesday 12th

"Save the Hillgrove cats" press conference  
with Celia Hammond, Maureen Hutchison and Dr.  
Roger Mugford.

Thursday 13th

*Day long vigil at Hillgrove farm 7am-5pm.*

Saturday 15th

*All night vigil at Hillgrove farm 10pm-7am Sun.*

Sunday 16th

*Demonstration outside Glasgow vet school,  
464 Bearsden rd. Glasgow. This demonstration was called  
because of Glasgow vet schools continued use of Hillgrove  
cats. 12 NOON*

Wednesday 19th

*All day vigil at Hillgrove farm 7am-5pm*

Saturday 22nd

*All night vigil at Hillgrove 10pm-7am Sun.*

Tuesday 25th

*Public meeting at the Langford hall, Witney, 7:30pm*

Wednesday 26th

*All day vigil at Hillgrove farm 7am-5pm*

Thursday 27th

*Demonstration outside Rhone Meriaux, Sandringham  
House, Sandringham ave, Harlow business park. 2pm  
Rhone Meriaux experiment on Hillgrove cats.*

Saturday 29th

*All night vigil at Hillgrove farm 10pm-7am Sun.*

## SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6th

*National Demonstration against Hillgrove farm,  
The Leys Recreation ground, Station Lane, Witney  
12 NOON*

Wednesday 9th

*Benefit gig, for "Save the Hillgrove Cats" The Wedgewood  
rooms, 147b Albert rd, Southsea, Hampshire, Phone Box  
office (01705) 863911.*

Also regular protests at Par-Air (worldwide animal transporters for the  
vivisection industry) contact North Essex Animal Rights 0976-560352

If you cannot make it to any of these demonstrations but would like to let the  
abusers know how you feel then please contact them by phone or fax on the day of  
the demo:

*Glasgow vet school tel: 141-0141-339-8855*

*Rhone Meriaux tel: 141-01279-775858*

ANYTIME

*Liverpool university tel: 141-0151-794-2000*

*Oxford University tel: 141-01865-271234*

## MERCHANDISE LIST

T-Shirt:black ( Hillgrove farm breeds cats for torture& pic.) ....£5.00

Colour leaflets(A5).....Free

T-Shirt:black (saved & picture 2 kittens).....£5.00

Colour posters (for sep 6th)...Free

Factsheets.....Free

Newsletters.....Free

Hooded top:black (saved & picture 2 kittens)..£15.00

A5 flyers (sep 6th).....Free

car stickers...Free

Video (footage of Hillgrove farm, experiments& demonstrations).....Free

Stickers(encl'd).....Free

A2 Colour poster general (ideal for stalls).....Free

A4 Colour poster(general).....Free

B&W A5 leaflets.....Free

Please make cheques / postal orders out to: Save the Hillgrove Cats.



# THE RSPCA STRIKES AGAIN

Maggy Jennings of The Research Animals Department of the RSPCA went along to Hillgrove farm in June accompanied by two RSPCA inspectors, Chief Inspector Doug Davidson and Inspector Tracey Davenport. When we heard of this we rang Maggy Jennings and she admitted Brown knew beforehand of her visit, and that neither her nor the inspectors actually went inside the sheds, but viewed the cats through a glass screen.

Maggy says in a memo to RSPCA council members *"I do not wish to pre-empt any report our inspectors may make but I can say that none of us saw any evidence of cruelty or mistreatment of the cats, or anything that conflicts with existing legislation or codes of practice, other than that which we already knew from the Home Office (ie. some of the pens are slightly below the new size requirements.)"*

Knowing that the RSPCA did not enter the sheds Maggy cannot possibly say truthfully that all is well at Hillgrove farm. They have not seen every single cat and kitten at Hillgrove.

Maggy also says *".....our concerns are those that we would have in ant breeding situation, for example, the frequency of pregnancies and lifetime confinement even when the pens are large."*

But what are they going to do about this ?

The above statement directly contradicts this statement about the Hillgrove farm breeding records.

*"Members of the public have sent us copies of the breeding records from Hillgrove farm. These have been examined by our professional veterinary staff who consider that they do not reveal evidence of cruel treatment."* So what we take this to mean is that according to the RSPCA to take a 5 week old kitten away from its mother is not cruel, to then sell that kitten for experiments at Oxford University is not cruel.

The professional veterinary staff at the RSPCA see nothing wrong with breeding from queens continuously, or weaning their kittens before they are 8 weeks old. They have no problem with 13 day old kittens sent with their mothers for experimentation. The RSPCA are saying that it is acceptable to keep a cat imprisoned for its entire life.

It must also be noted that Maggy Jennings of the Research Animals Department (RSPCA) is also on the Animals Scientific Procedures Committee. This committee basically rubber stamps the horrendous, pointless animal experiments that are carried out in this country.

It is obvious that her actions alone are designed to give Brown some kind of credibility and therefore misleading the public into thinking that the conditions at Hillgrove farm are acceptable. We at the campaign are stunned that the RSPCA see nothing wrong with the breeding records. Save the Hillgrove Cats is all about preventing the suffering of the Hillgrove cats which means closing down Hillgrove farm. In the meantime however, nobody more than us would like to see the cats kept in the best possible conditions. Sadly they are not kept in good conditions, they are overcrowded, stressed and some are exhausted and more than that they never see the light of day.

We rang Chief Inspector Doug Davidson who gave a different story to Maggy Jennings amongst many things he confirmed that Brown refused them access to the sheds. We would like to make it plain that we have the utmost respect for the majority of RSPCA inspectors and supporters.

Maggy Jennings is a disgrace to the RSPCA and for her to be part of it makes a total mockery of the aims of the society.

You can write to Maggy Jennings at:  
The Research Animals Department  
RSPCA  
Horsham  
West Sussex

WITNEY GAZETTE

THE INDEPENDENT

## Speak out

THE prohibition order (July 10 to 13) made by West Oxfordshire District Council to prevent cat-loving people from peacefully demonstrating against Hillgrove Farm, was disgraceful, preventing law-abiding people, many of them pensioners, from exercising their right to protest.

After the death camp at Auschwitz was liberated, the local residents maintained they did not know what went on in the camp.

I ask the animal-loving community in the Witney area to be aware and make your voices heard in condemnation of the Hillgrove activities.

If you do nothing then you are accessories to Christopher and Kathleen Brown's cruelty. It is time to call a halt and have the trade in cats closed down once and for all — make it a Millennium Project for your area!

Mrs Joan Wall  
Walton on Thames, Surrey

Max Gastone  
Swansea

## Animal rights at grassroots is stronger than ever

AS someone who has been involved in animal rights for some time, I want to point out a misconception in your article on divisions in the animal rights movement ("The antis lose the scent", 28 June). Many of the organisations mentioned are the national groups who, for the most part, have lost contact with

grassroots campaigners. For example, look at the huge campaign against Hillgrove cat farm in Oxford. One does not see the national groups supporting it. So, whereas the larger charities are divided, the movement as a whole is stronger than ever; it is not to be found at the champagne receptions of national groups.

The movement has never been a single cohesive body, but a collection of people with the cause of ending animal cruelty. It is made up of individuals, and not of gurus. There is no way to stereotype consistently all those who come out to protest.



# BROWN ON THE PHONE

The transcript below is the edited highlights of a telephone conversation between Greg Jennings from Save the Hillgrove Cats and Mr. Brown. During the conversation Mr. Brown became quite abusive and hung up 3 times. Greg persisted in pursuit of the truth.....

G. So can I ask you a question about the records?

B. *Yes.*

G. The 10% mortality of new born kittens.

B. *Yes.*

G. Something you admitted to on oath.

B. *That's correct yes.*

G. You say that's normal.

B. *Um I said it's 10% between umm from birth to weaning.*

G. That's right.

B. *That's including still born Kittens.*

G. And you've said that's normal.

B. *Well it's average.*

G. For what?

B. *Well that's quite a natural...*

G. Where do you get that research from?

B. *Well you can ask other people.*

G. Oh I have done don't worry - we've actually spoken to vets and I've not found anybody who says it natural.

G. Right so back to the records. Would you be prepared to answer questions about the records if you've nothing to hide?

B. *I've answered your question.*

G. No question - you've not actually quoted the research - you say it's natural. Where do you get that from? You quote me one person who says it's natural.

B. *What?*

G. For 10% of kittens to die.

B. *Well I've watched and looked.*

G. No you state me research which backs your statement up.

B. *I'm not talking about research, I'm talking about natural cats.*

G. So you just made that up basically. You cannot pin point one bit of research.

B. *There's no point in arguing with someone like you who professes to be an expert and knows...*

G. Well I'm asking you a question

B. *What qualifications have you got?*

G. What qualifications have YOU got?

B. *Lots*

G. Like what? Name me one

B. *Well I've been doing what I'm doing for years*

G. No that's not a qualification, name me one qualification, are you a vet?

B. *No*

G. Well why won't you answer reasonable questions then?

B. *I answered reasonable questions.*

G. You've not answered one yet!

B. *You've got TWO MINUTES!!!*

G. You tell me.

B. *TWO MINUTES!!*

G. Well if you'll let me speak.

G. You point to one bit of research which backs your claim that 10% of kittens dying is natural. You name me one bit of research.

B. *I don't know of any research*

G. So you've just made that up yourself. You've got absolutely nothing to back that up.

B. *As far as I know it's quite general knowledge.*

G. Well name me one bit of research to back that claim up.

B. *It doesn't need research.*

G. Of course it does

B. *Alright*

G. Of course it does.

B. *Alright I can't answer that one.*

G. The second question.

B. *What's the next question?*

G. You said at Oxford Crown Court that you don't sell kittens under 8 weeks old. These records show.

B. *I said I normally don't sell kittens...*

G. NO NO We've actually got the court transcripts you see. You said you do not sell kittens under 8 weeks old.

B. *I said normally*

G. No you said you don't full stop.

B. *I said normally*

G. No you didn't - we've got the court transcript

B. *I was very careful what I said.*

G. No we've got the transcript.

B. *You might have the transcript..*

G. 13 days you sell kittens from 13 days, Do you think that's acceptable?

B. *Sorry?*

G. 13 days you've sold kittens

B. *I sold the kittens. If you look in the book it says with the mother.*

G. Not at 5 weeks old it doesn't. It says sent to Oxford at 5 weeks old.

B. *No I'm talking about the 13 days old.*

G. Right well the RSPCA actually state that the earliest you should wean is 8 weeks old.

B. *Well the RSPCA might say that but 6 weeks old is the recognised weaning age.*

G. Well you sent it at 5 weeks old that's five weeks.



- B. *Yes well who's to say it didn't go on to a mother at the other end.*
- G. Sorry?
- B. *It went on to a mother at the other end PROBABLY.*
- G. Probably? You didn't even know you mean
- B. *Well they said they would...*
- G. PROBABLY!!
- B. *Look you can feed a kitten even if it isn't weaned.*
- G. It's totally unnatural though isn't it?
- B. *What?*
- G. It's totally unnatural.
- B. *No.*
- G. Oh it is totally unnatural.
- B. *How do you know? Are you a vet?*
- G. No but we've spoken to loads of vets.
- G. The cats not being tattooed actually breaks the Home Office regulations doesn't it?
- B. *Yes.*
- G. Yes and that's something you feel quite happy about is it?
- B. *No the ones we sell have to be tattooed.*
- G. No, no, no you actually read the codes of practice it says all have got to be tattooed.
- B. *Yes.*

- G. So you're actually breaking the codes of practice.
- B. *All ours are tattooed.*
- G. No there were some in the case which weren't tattooed and there are some in the records who aren't tattooed.
- G. There are six in the records that aren't tattooed
- B. *Yes well they are tattooed*
- G. No they're not- the tattoo numbers are not written down there- all the others are written down there. So how do you explain that?
- B. *All the ones that we breed are tattooed.*
- G. No they are not there was one in the case that wasn't tattooed.
- G. You actually read the codes of practice and it actually says that all the cats have got to be tattooed.
- B. *That came to us when.,*
- G. It doesn't matter once it entered Hillgrove Farm it should have been tattooed. So you've broken the codes of practice. Do you accept that?
- B. *Yes.*
- G. You accept that?
- B. *Yes.*

# Magistrate: We support cat protest

OXFORD MAIL HEADLINE

## Top cop faces grilling over demo policing

CHIEF CONSTABLE Charles Pollard is due for a grilling over the massive cost of policing demonstrations at Hill Grove Farm - which has already topped £750,000.

The Thames Valley Police boss has been asked in for questioning before county councillors on September 18 to justify the expense, and the tactics used to police demonstrations at the farm, which breeds cats for animal experiments.

Green county councillor Sushi-la Dhall said: "Our belief is people want more bobbies on the beat but all they get is more cameras and the police being used to protect certain interests - with money from the taxpayers' purse. Chris Brown [the farm owner] should pay part of the cost for his security."

"Some of the policing has been very over the top. The majority of the demonstrators are decent, peaceful people."



QUESTIONING: Pollard

OXFORD JOURNAL

## YOUNG SUPPORTER

We've been asked by Luton members to mention "Beckie from Luton" aged 11 who has been collecting signatures on the petition almost every day, walking around the streets, standing outside shops and telling her school mates and teachers about Hillgrove. What a star!! It is children like Beckie who are the hope for the animals in the future. It is great to see such dedication and self motivation in someone so young. Cheers Beckie you are a real friend to the Hillgrove cats.



# LEGAL ADVICE

When you receive the legal advice leaflet that we hand out on every demonstration, please read it carefully, TAKE THE ADVICE and use one of the solicitors listed. Don't forget that it is highly unlikely that you will ever be arrested at a Hillgrove farm demonstration, so don't have nightmares!!

## POINTS TO REMEMBER

- [1] Please send us details of your arrest(when and where, what charges)
- [2] Complain to the police in writing, it does make a difference!
- [3] Sue the police if you are wrongfully arrested, assaulted or have your charges dropped.
- [4] DON'T EVER TALK TO THE POLICE. They are NOT impartial and they are NOT on our side (believe it or not!)
- [5] Keep the campaign informed and up to date with details of your case Don't think we are not interested because WE ARE. Let us know your court dates (which court) and which solicitor you are using.
- [6] Send us photos and video footage of demos. They may help someones case and prove their innocence. DON'T send anything that may incriminate someone else.

## WITNESSES NEEDED

At the end of the march on July 11th 1998 a woman was knocked to the ground by a police officer on the main road by the Pear Tree Services as she was making her way back to her car. She was wearing a navy blue coat, a cat mask and black trousers. An ambulance was called and she was treated in hospital for a head injury. If you were a witness to this mindless attack please phone us on : 0121 632 6460

**To complain about your treatment by the police or any other behaviour by officers you find unacceptable please write to: Complaints & Discipline, Thames Valley Police Headquarters, Oxford road, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 2NX. Tel 01865 846000**

Please contact the campaign and keep us informed of your progress - we may be able to put you in contact with witnesses Tel: 0121 632 6460

A lot of people are released without charge or have their charges dropped or reduced greatly at a later date. The majority of the 30 magistrates on the bench at Witney are sympathetic to our cause ( one magistrate announced this publicly at Witney magistrates on July 30 1998).

If you are released without charge you are entitled to sue the police and we recommend you contact: Irwin Mitchell solicitors 0114 276 7777

## .....BRISTOL UNIVERSITY INSPECTION.....

On Tuesday 28th July about 12 noon eight activists entered the grounds of Bristol University's huge veterinary experimental complex at Langford (tel 141-0117-928-7499/ 928-9280) just south of Bristol. It is worth remembering that it is this very same place that has sold female cats to Hillgrove farm to be used as breeding queens (machines) and Hillgrove have supplied them with numerous cats for experimentation. Buildings were identified as housing cats in the past were entered via unlocked doors but found to contain farm animals as they had obviously moved the cats to a different part of the complex (maybe they've got something to hide?). Certain buildings had keypad entry only so we could only guess what was in there. By this point there were several security guards and quite a few farm hands in hostile attendance. As our intentions were to find and photograph Hillgrove cats in a peaceful manner after 20 minutes we decided to leave. Driving away we were passed by quite a few police cars and riot vans flying towards Langford with lights flashing and sirens blaring. That kind of reaction to eight activists looking around the site without breaking anything or threatening anybody, I realise that they really must have something to hide.



## DR. VERNON COLEMAN MBChB DSc(hon)

We were delighted when Dr. Vernon Coleman agreed to speak at the rally and demonstration against Hillgrove Farm on Saturday July 11th 1998, but sadly it didn't happen due to the behaviour of the police. Dr. Coleman wasn't surprised by the outrageous actions of the police which were ordered by the government. Dr. Coleman's speech was to include an attack on the government for its failure to stand by pre-election promises on animal experimentation. Dr. Coleman is now suing Jack Straw for his train fare which was wasted as a result of the exclusion order.

### ***Extract from letter from Dr. Coleman to Jack Straw:***

"I spent £99.80 on railfare travelling to Oxford. Please refund this sum within 7 days otherwise I shall take whatever legal action seems appropriate."

Dr. Coleman told us "when I arrived at the road block (with two photographers) we decided to approach on foot. We were allowed through and were only stopped when we went back and told the police where I was heading. Being arrested would have made a good story but I decided that it would have been fairly pointless and damaging in the long term. However it does seem to me that it is fair to argue that the ban should have been announced on Friday. Unless I hear from him with a cheque (which I obviously very much doubt) I'll arrange for a writ to be issued against Jack Straw next week."

## **ACTION**

Dr. Coleman has asked us to appeal to you all for information. He would like to hear from anyone who has encountered problems with the police after attending marches/rallies etc.

Dr. Coleman regrets he cannot answer any letters or offer specific help to anyone who writes in. He is gathering as much evidence/info as possible on this type of police activity.

Please write to Dr. Coleman, Publishing house, Trinity place, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 9HJ.

Dr. Coleman will be speaking at the rally on 6th September 1998 at the Leys recreation ground, Witney 12 noon.

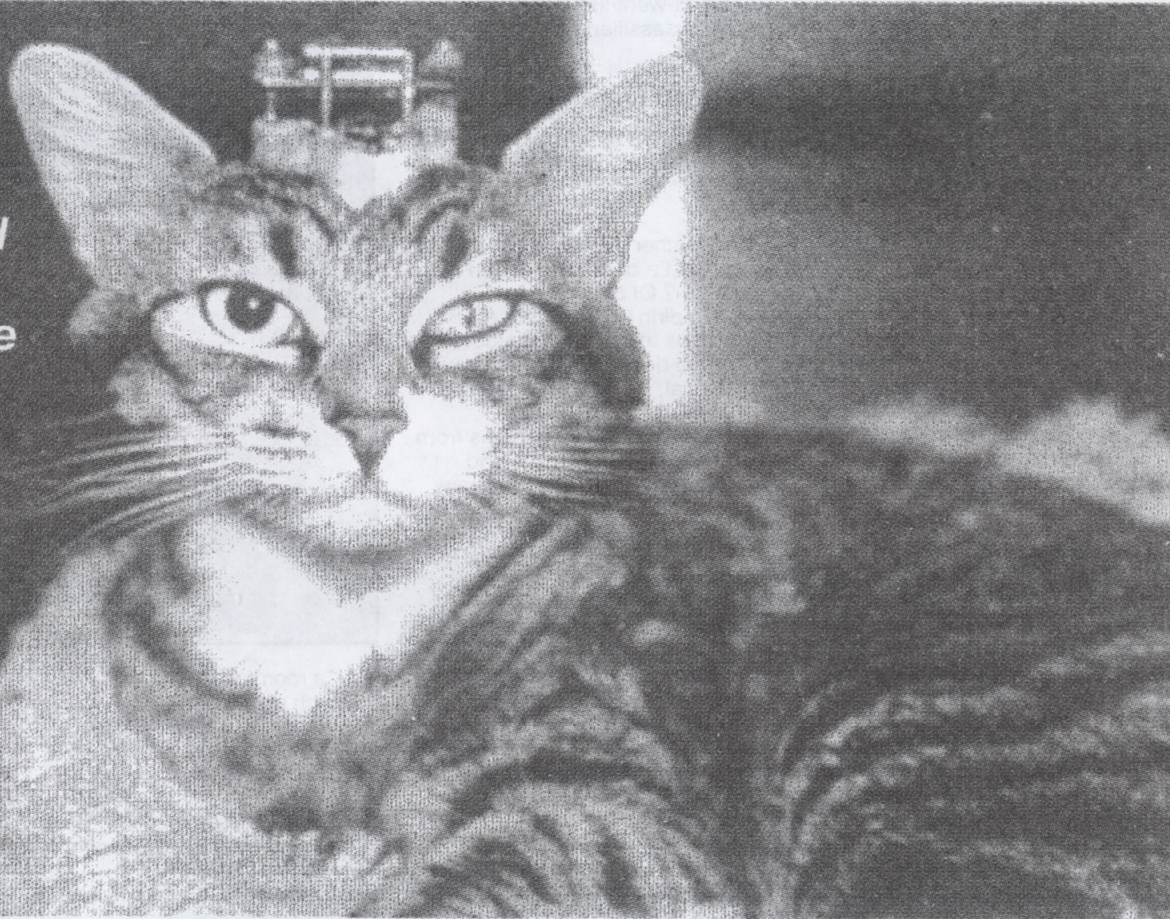
## **WHAT THE CAMPAIGN NEEDS**

- [1] **RELIABLE TRANSPORT CONTACTS**-We need more transport contacts throughout the country. Reliable people are needed to book a coach or mini-bus to the Hillgrove Demos. From their area - It's not so difficult, please ring us if you can help and we can give you advice. 0121-632-6460
- [2] **PUBLICISTS**-We need contacts in every town and city in the U.K. who can put posters up in shops, libraries and public places. Also if you know a local health food/ book shop who will take copies of the newsletter please contact us on the above number.
- [3] **NUMBERS**-We need MORE support for daily demos and all night vigils. These events are very important so if you or your group can spare anytime please let us know.
- [4] **THE HILLGROVE CAMPAIGN** is huge with a mailing list of several thousand, we distribute everything free and will always do so. If you can make a donation to the campaign please do so. It is worth remembering that we are entirely voluntary and every penny you donate goes directly towards closing Hillgrove Farm as it did in closing Consort beagle breeders. Please make cheques/PO's to Save the Hillgrove Cats, BOX CB, 111 MAGDALEN ROAD, OXFORD, OX4 1RQ  
WE CAN NOW RECIEVE E-MAIL [hillgrove@asa-net.co.uk](mailto:hillgrove@asa-net.co.uk)



# BLINDED, CLAMPED IN METAL VICES AND ELECTROCUTED

**EXCLUSIVE:**  
Shocking  
pictures leaked  
to The Big  
Issue reveal the  
appalling  
suffering of  
cats bred for  
research. Neil  
Mackay  
investigates



The cats' heads are clamped in metal vices. Still conscious, the young animals' eyes are fixed on the two medics standing emotionless in the dark research room.

Then the operations begin. The whole process lasts less than a minute. In that time, the medics slit the head of each cat open from crown to forehead, remove part of the brain with their gloved fingers, insert a two-inch long electrode into the heads of the animals and close the wounds with a few stitches.

That horrific scene is contained in a video obtained by The Big Issue in Scotland from animal rights campaigners fighting to end the abuse of cats in vivisection experiments across Britain and the rest of the world.

The film is silent – we don't know if the animals cried out in pain or not, but their extreme distress, while conscious throughout the entire operation, is evident.

Other sickening scenes contained in the video include: ■ footage of cats receiving massive charges of electricity as they walk across a wired floor – the experiments, claim animal activists, were to investigate aggression in the animals; ■ a cat being cut open from the neck to the groin and its entire innards scooped out; ■ and a number of cats, paralysed down one half of their bodies, dragging themselves around in a state of distress.

A selection of pictures, some of which are reproduced on

these pages, was also sent to us along with the video. The photographs show cats undergoing appalling and, according to animal rights groups, completely unnecessary suffering.

The scenes in this video, and the pictures shown in this article, are precisely the type of suffering being inflicted on cats bred and sold for research from Hillgrove Farm in Oxfordshire, say animal rights campaigners.

The controversial breeding centre, run by farmer Chris Brown, is being targeted by the Save the Hillgrove Cats (SHC) Campaign. They condemn Hillgrove and want to shut it down. But Brown refutes their claims against his business and accuses them of harassment.

SHC is a group of animal rights campaigners which fought consistently against Consort Kennels, near Ross-on-Wye, which bred beagles. The kennels are now closed.

The activists insist many of the cats bred by Brown are exported across the world and undergo horrific experiments like those pictured above. The animals are also transported to research labs in Britain.

According to SHC, the cats are subjected to gruesome experimentation. Electrodes are forced into their brains, their spines are broken, their eyes are cut out so their heads can be placed in head vices to speed up operations, they have electrodes wired to their hearts and electrocuted to death.

**WARNING: the pictures on the following pages may shock some readers**



Terminal experiments on cats include 'decerebration' – the removal of sections of the brain leaving only the non-conscious nervous system functioning to measure nerve activity.

There are also experiments involving blinding cats and rearing kittens in total darkness in order to study vision areas in the brain.

Heather James, SHC spokeswoman, says the vast majority of cat experimentation is pointless.

Her view is backed up by alternative veterinary surgeon Chris Day, who says: "Animal experiments have delayed many

four days old were given up to eight injections of LSD. Some research also involved technicians blinding kittens by sewing up their eyelids before injecting chemicals into their brains.

Even supporters of vivisection, like Hillgrove's Chris Brown, admit some of these experiments are cruel and unnecessary. This year the Government said that of the 110 licences granted involving the use of cats in experiments, 59 were in the section (c) 'moderate' severity category, and 11 were listed in the section (d) unclassified category.

## 'There can't be anything wrong with experiments like this if they don't cause pain'

potential advances in human medicine.

"I have never accepted that a different species, kept in artificially caged situations, can possibly be of scientific relevance to the human species."

Day, a Cambridge graduate, also claims that the exportation of cats abroad was "stressful and inexcusable".

He opposes experiments such as those where vomiting was induced in cats up to 97 times in less than four hours, or others where the head of cats were placed in holding frames, one eye removed and the hole at the back of the socket enlarged with a dental drill until a cerebral artery could be reached. Electrodes were then attached to the wound and six hours later the animals were killed and their heads cut off for examination.

In other cases kittens of just

Heather James says: "Would you test a drug for a cat on a human? Of course not.

"Aspirin kills cats but not humans in comparative doses; a normal drink of lemon juice will kill a cat; morphine sedates humans yet excites cats. Penicillin can save humans from infection yet it kills cats and botulinum poison kills humans but not cats."

Brown admits that many of his cats are exported abroad, but says this is primarily for breeding rather than experimentation. He claims most of his cats are used – in the UK – for experiments in veterinary medicine. Brown says any other experiments his cats undergo are for "the benefit of humanity". He believes his cats are not subjected to the kind of animal experiments shown on these pages.

Yet Brown claims that he once



saw "a roomful" of cats at a research centre with electrodes in their heads, and adds: "They were scampering about very happily and were in no discomfort.

"There can't be anything wrong with experiments like this if they don't cause pain."

Brown, who calls himself a cat lover and comes from a family of vets, also says animal rights campaigners might change their minds about the picture above showing a dead cat rigged up to the heart electrodes "if they saw an old lady die in the street of a heart seizure".

He adds: "I love animals. If it wasn't for me this market would be filled by back-street cowboys who stole animals off the street."

But Brown admits that there is no way he could know exactly what happens to his cats when they leave the premises.

SHC's Heather James says there are many recorded cases of lab technicians and scientists cruelly abusing animals once they are in their care.

Three kittens who had their spines broken were dubbed 'Snap, Crackle and Pop' at a research lab, and there is also photographic evidence of a monkey with the word 'crap' scrawled across its face, she says.

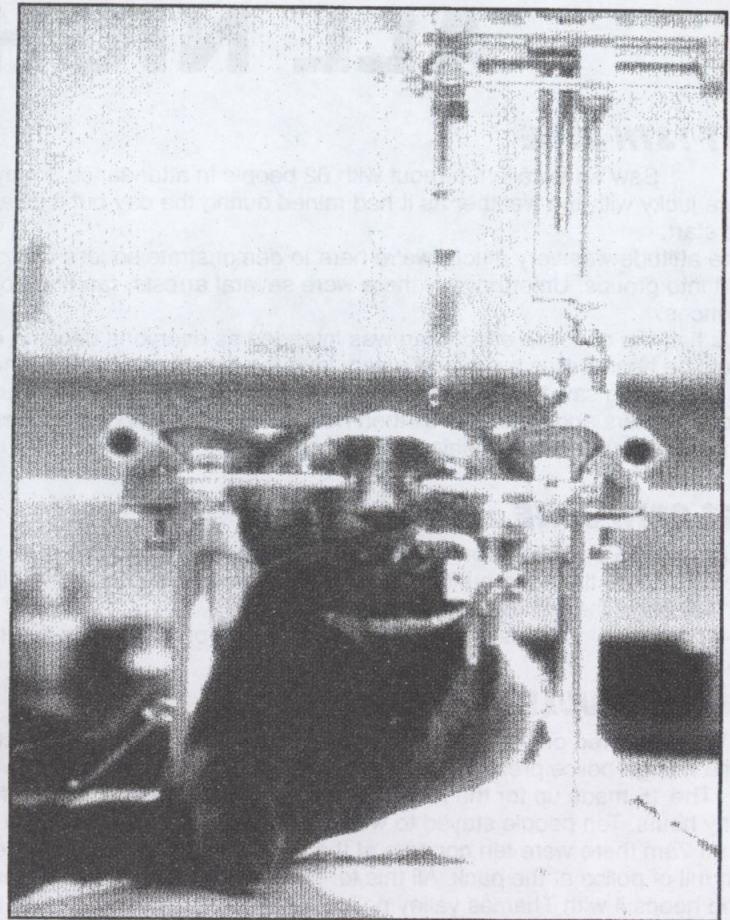
Hillgrove Farm has also come under fire from animal rights activists for the conditions in which animals are kept there.

They have dubbed the idyllic spot, much sought after as a holiday resort, 'Hellgrove'. SHC say more than 1000 cats and



■ Demonstrators outside Hillgrove Farm where cats are bred for research

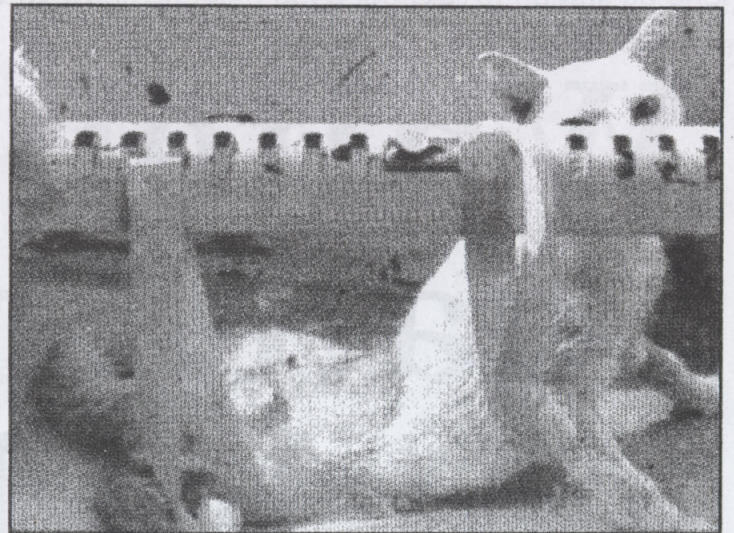
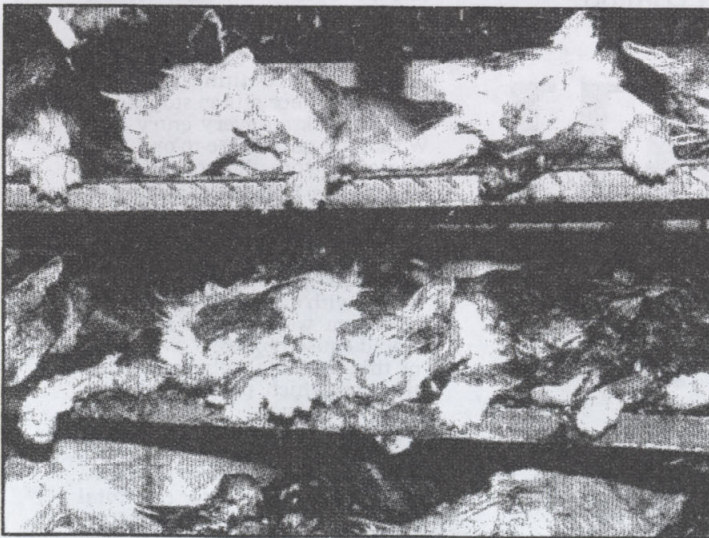




All pics: SHC

■ **Left: this cat died after having electrodes wired to its heart**

**Above: eyes removed, a cat is clamped for operating**  
**Below left: stacks of electrocuted cats await disposal**  
**Below: a cat with its spine broken for an experiment**



kittens are bred in windowless sheds. They also claim kittens are tattooed on the ear "with pliers" and 10 per cent of kittens are killed by their mothers due to stress.

Brown insists conditions at his farm are "A1 - the best you could get". He claims animal rights campaigners have harassed him and spread false rumours about his business in a bid to close him down.

But Brown became nervous

when asked by The Big Issue if he did indeed tattoo cats with pliers. He replied: "Yes, we do. It's painless and we need to do it for identification purposes."

He then cut short the conversation immediately and ended the interview.

Anti-vivisection campaigners have staged fierce protests outside Hillgrove Farm. At one, nearly 600 protesters, some in balaclavas, tried to break in and free kittens. Protecting the farm

has cost the tax-payer at least £500,000 and protests have seen hundreds of riot police at the scene backed up by tracker dogs and helicopters.

Hillgrove Farm has also been the target of hoax bombs sent by extreme animal rights groups. Last year The Big Issue revealed that the Animal Liberation Front was planning to bomb labs and businesses linked to vivisection both in Scotland and the rest of the UK.

A month later we were leaked a secretly filmed video showing the live dissection of monkeys in the British-owned Huntingdon Life Sciences in America.

SHC, which staged its most recent Hillgrove protest last Sunday, plans another demo at the farm on July 31.

"We will not stop," says Heather James. "We will continue campaigning until this pointless, greedy exploitation comes to an end."

TBIS



# ALL NIGHT VIGILS

## SAT 13TH JUNE

Saw an excellent turnout with 62 people in attendance, many new faces, some of them locals, who are always welcome. We were lucky with the weather as it had rained during the day but it cleared for the night. This vigil was a lively and noisy one right from the start.

The attitude was very much "we're here to demonstrate so let's demonstrate!" Whistles were blown continuously and people soon split into groups. Unfortunately there were several arrests, ranging from obstruction of the highway to general disturbing the peace offences.

This had the opposite effect than was intended as everyone became even more noisy, with an impromptu firework display which could be heard miles away and a very loud fog horn was also to be heard about 4am.

Early morning saw the sun break over this most notorious animal abuse centre. Fifteen people waited until 8am to 'welcome' in the two(!) workers and Sunday was then handed over to the local demonstrators who number between 5 - 10 and come every Sunday morning through rain and shine until about 1pm.

## SAT 27TH JUNE

Around 45 demonstrators gathered at Hillgrove farm and this vigil was to be as noisy as the last but this time with a "hunting theme". More than one hunting horn was heard well into the night. Fireworks were let off around 3am. Again people waited until 8am to "welcome" the workers in.

There were no arrests and the attitude of everyone was very determined and vowing to keep coming for as long as it takes.

## SAT 25TH JULY

We numbered only 15 on this vigil due to the Sainsburys day of action earlier in the day (no complaints or surprises). There was quite a large police presence with between 50-100 officers many of whom made it plain that they did not want to be there.

The 15 made up for the lack of numbers with plenty of spirit and fireworks again heard probably by everyone in Witney, in the early hours. Ten people stayed to welcome the two workers in only to be met by quite an extraordinary sight.

At 7am there were ten coppers at the entrance to the drive and the workers had an escort of a police landrover in front and a riot van full of police at the back. All this for just two workers at a place that has paid nothing towards its own security (Private security? Who needs it with Thames valley police doing the job for you) If ever a reminder was needed of the sheer injustice of it all then this was it.

These vigils work so please come and join us, the next ones are

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 10PM-7AM SUNDAY

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST 10PM-7AM SUNDAY

Phone us first on (0121) 6326460 to let us know you're coming.

6 GAZETTE, Wednesday, July 29, 1998

# Whitehall date for cat lobby

A PETITION containing more than 200,000 signatures demanding the closure of Hillgrove Farm, Minster Lovell, will be handed in to the Home Office in London today.

Save the Hillgrove Cats campaign is trying to close Hillgrove Farm, where cats are bred for medical research.

Earlier this year campaigners attempted to hand in the petition at the Swindon Home Office, where the inspectors responsible for Hillgrove farm are based, but were refused.

A spokeswoman for the campaign Miss

By SUZANNE HUBAND

Heather James said: "Hillgrove Farm has been breeding cats and kittens for nearly 30 years and has been the scene of massive demonstrations over the past year. Allegations and proof of cruelty have come to light and the owner Christopher Brown has sold kittens as young as thirteen days old for experiments."

## No threat

I, LIKE many others, was appalled at West Oxfordshire District Council's application, late on Friday evening, for an order prohibiting access within a five-mile radius of Witney.

Firstly it was so underhand that people knew nothing about it until they were either stopped at a road block on every entry into Witney or on a three-to-one confrontation with the police, all of whom were fully kitted out in protective clothing.

It seems you are likely to be arrested if you are standing on a public footpath having a conversation with a few other people, all of whom were middle-aged and would cause no threat as a result of this ban on a rally-demonstration for which people had travelled a long way.

I met couples who have come from Surrey, Wales and the north, all of whom had had a wasted journey. But despite the total blockade of Witney, protesters made their way to Oxford and completely blocked off the main roundabout into the city, causing traffic jams and more of a disturbance than if we had been allowed to protest at Hillgrove. However, the police saw fit to have 12 mounted police stationed at Hillgrove all afternoon although there were no protesters there.

I am a middle-aged woman totally frustrated at the lack of concern the authorities have for the reason why we are protesting.

But Mr Brown will get closed down one way or another.

Mrs T W Evans  
Witney



# SHAKEN & DEFINITELY STIRRED

As the campaign to close Hillgrove Farm grows from strength to strength it is worth looking at where we have come so far. Places like Hillgrove thrive on secrecy and as Mr. Brown once said, "I like to keep a low profile" those days are gone forever with Hillgrove now a national focus. The vivisection industry is under the cosh with the past twelve months seeing the closure of Consort Beagle Breeders, Huntingdon Life Sciences exposed and now in real financial trouble and Hillgrove Farm most definitely on the run. Britain is now seen as a place to avoid by vivisectionists and labs present and future with their vile trade now being dragged kicking and screaming out into the open. The letter reprinted in full below from a research journal is not one by us but by Norman Morteli of Covance Laboratories Ltd. who it is worth remembering are one of the biggest contract vivisection laboratories in Europe.

*Dear Editor,*

## *Erosion of the Research Industry in the UK*

*I have noticed as I am sure that many of you have the increase in animal rights activity particularly against animal suppliers currently. I am alarmed at the fact that our industry seems to be allowing this vocal and determined minority to affect the research industry in our Country. Are we guilty of burying our heads in the sand? Are we guilty of not looking 5, 10, or 15 years forward and trying to imagine what state our industry will be in? Unless we take action now and support the activities of organisations such as the Research Defence Society and Seriously Ill for Medical Research and support the rights of smaller organisations, then we may see this trend continue. I am fed up of hearing how well funded some of the animal rights groups are! Surely a coalition of all interested parties, the IAT, LASA, BLAVA, RDS, SIMR, AMRIC, the Biomedical Research education Trust, Pharmaceutical companies, Contract Research companies, Universities, Equipment and Animal suppliers and many other who work in our industry can generate a fund to compete with them?*

*What can we do? As individuals we are relatively powerless but surely we can have a co-ordinated approach to educate the public with enough financial clout to support current efforts and to go a step further. Persistent and consistent advertising of the benefits that our industry presents to the popular press, bill board and sponsoring documentaries about our work. Leafleting schools (all schools) and following up with them for giving talks, giving talks to the local community and inviting them around on a regular basis. We could write to our Members of Parliament to each voice our concern, again this could be a co-ordinated campaign? We must try and redress the balance. We have nothing to be ashamed of.*

*I am not belittling the efforts that many are involved in, but I would like to see us do it in a more co-ordinated fashion. We should be proud of what we do and publicise it better. To do this we need to have a substantial fund of money at our disposal. I am sure that we already have the framework in place to co-ordinate the activity and to get everybody involved in protecting our industry. Just because you don't use a particular supplier who is under threat or just because you don't import primates or because you haven't had a demonstration at your doorstep does not mean that you will not be next! Any loss to our industry through animal rights pressure is intolerable to the industry as a whole; are you prepared to do anything about it?*

*Norman Morteli MIA7, RAn Tech  
Manager, Rodent Toxicology  
Covance Laboratories Ltd.*



Hillgrove Farm sold kittens to Oxford University...



...at just FIVE weeks old...



...to be BLINDED!



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FOUND ON THE SITE. THANKS.***