

THE ABOLITIONIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF COMPASSION OVER KILLING

SPRING/SUMMER 1997

ISSUE #3

FREE

COMPASSION OVER KILLING DELAYS RINGLING BROS. CIRCUS!

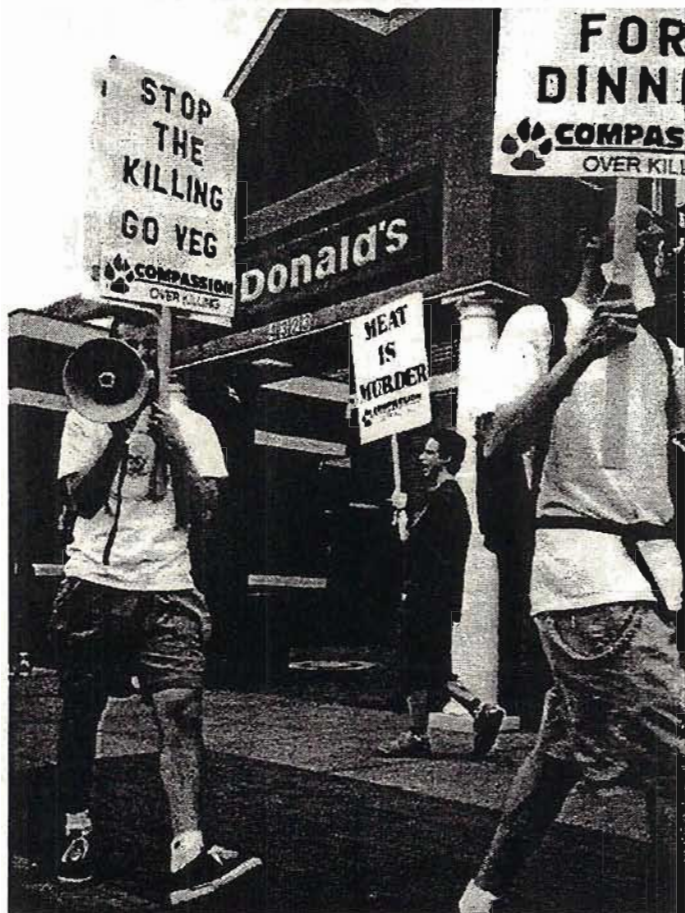


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COK McProtests in Celebration of the Great American Meatout



According to the USDA, approximately eight billion animals are killed in U.S. slaughterhouses each year. This astronomical number does not include the animals who die on factory farms due to illness, overcrowding, or other problems inherent in agribusiness, nor the animals who die en route to the slaughterhouse. It also excludes all fishes and other sea animals whose flesh is consumed by humans.

Compassion Over Killing celebrated the Great American Meatout this year with a protest in front of a downtown D.C. McDonald's. On March 15, 1997, scores of activists converged under the Golden Arches wielding posters, leaflets, and megaphones. Our message was simple:

Choose compassion. Choose vegan.

Chanting "When your stomach needs a filling, choose compassion over killing," "Animals are not ours to eat; have compassion...give up meat!" and other slogans, the activists educated hundreds of patrons and passersby. Police on the scene tried to intimidate the demonstrators, but knowledge of our First Amendment rights and various local laws enabled us to keep

the momentum going at the demo without too much harassment and injustice.

The D.C. Fox affiliate helped COK spread the word about veganism by airing an extremely positive piece on the protest and the purpose behind the annual Meatout.



COMPASSION OVER KILLING

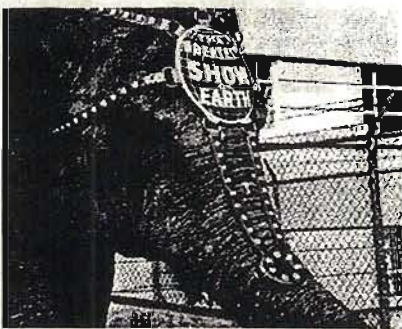
COK DELAYS RINGLING BROS. CIRCUS!

ACTIVISTS BRAVE ELEPHANT URINE TO PROTEST ANIMAL EXPLOITATION



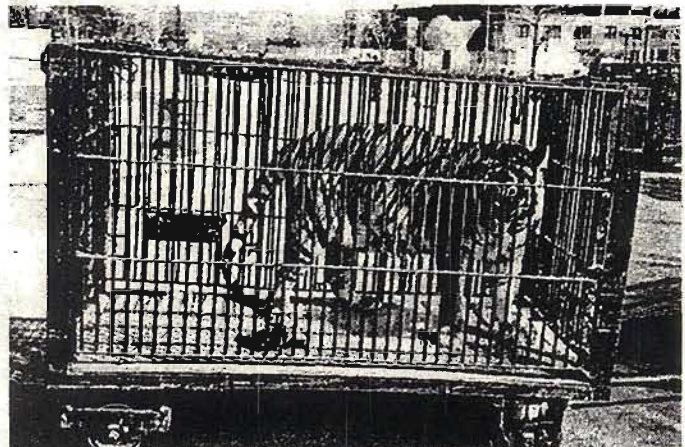
March 29, 1997—When the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus came to D.C., the self-proclaimed *Greatest Show on Earth* was in for a surprise: while more than 50 members of Compassion Over Killing (COK) chanted, waved signs, held banners, and distributed literature against the exploitation of animals for our "entertainment," five COK activists locked themselves together with steel pipes, successfully blocking the loading dock doors where the animals are brought into the arena to "perform" and delaying the circus for hours.

Encouraged by the dozens of supporting protesters, the five activists, clad in *Animal Liberation* shirts, remained steadfast in their act of civil disobedience. While some "performing" animals were able to be skirted around the activists, the majority were given an unexpected reprieve from their otherwise strenuous and unrelenting schedule.



As the police struggled for more than two hours to remove the locked-down activists, Ringling Bros. personnel managed to retaliate by strategically placing a blocked elephant just uphill from the activists and holding her there until she urinated. Needless to say, all five activists continued to lay boldly, as they marinated in elephant urine for more than an hour.

The five arrested activists—three adults and two minors—were held in police custody for nearly 11 hours. The adults were released on their own recognizance and charged with "unlawful entry"—charges which were dropped at their subsequent arraignment. The two minors were released to their family members without being charged.



COK TAKES ON THE WHITE HOUSE

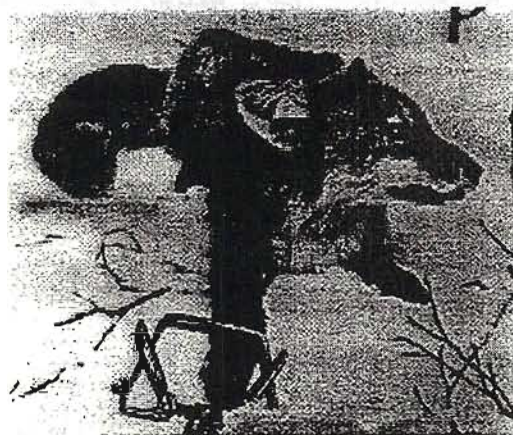


The European Union (EU) recently banned the use of the barbaric steel-jaw leghold trap in Europe. It also prohibited the importation of furs from animals who had been killed in leghold traps from non-European countries. This was a huge victory for the animal rights movement and propelled us one step closer to the complete abolition of the fur industry.

As the U.S. is the one of the world's largest users of steel-jaw leghold traps, our government quickly protested the EU's historic decision. President Clinton immediately succumbed to hunter pressure and threatened to take action against the EU if the ban was not lifted.

After learning of the Clinton Administration's appalling opposition to the EU's wild fur ban, and in solidarity with the many imprisoned activists who protested against the steel-jaw leghold trap, COK took to the White House. Chanting and leafleting, protesters sent a loud and clear message to the Prez: *we won't stand for cruelty in the name of fashion!*

That evening, several European news stations reported on the protest, letting the European public know that American animal rights activists refuse to sit by complacently while Clinton sends millions of fur-bearing animals to their deaths at the hands of trappers.



WISH LIST

IF FINANCIAL GIVING ISN'T POSSIBLE, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS TO HELP US CONTINUE OUR WORK—

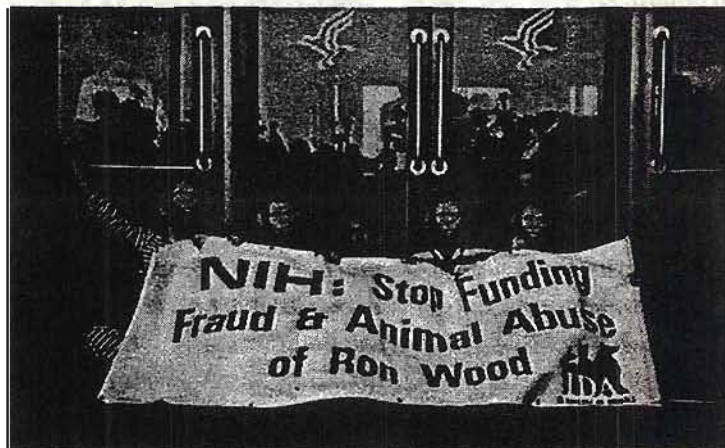
- **STAMPS**—SAVE OUR TONGUES! SELF-STICKING STAMPS, PLEASE.
- **ENVELOPES**—WE NEED BOTH LEGAL-SIZED ENVELOPES & MANILA PACKS, AT LEAST 9X11 IN SIZE.
- **MAGIC MARKERS**—BLACK AND THICK AND BIG, PLEASE.
- **POSTER BOARD**—ALWAYS IN NEED. THE THICKER THE BETTER.
- **BANNER MATERIAL**—TARA CLOTH IS GREAT, BUT WE'LL TAKE WHATEVER YOU DONATE!
- **BLANK VHS VIDEOTAPES**

COK Protests Vivisector Ron Wood On World Day for Animals in Laboratories

On April 24, 1997, in commemoration of World Day for Animals in Laboratories, COK along with In Defense of Animals descended on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to express our outrage at National Institute on Drug Abuse's scandalous decision to re-fund Ron Wood's cruel crack-smoking experiments on primates. Wood's experiments were shut down in 1995 for hundreds of violations of the Federal Animal Welfare Act. Now, after relocating to the University of Rochester, Wood is once again torturing monkeys on the government payroll.

The day began with a series of speakers, including Ray Greek, M.D., from the Medical Research Modernization Committee (MRMC); Ken Shapiro, Ph.D., from Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PsyETA); Tracy Reiman from PETA; and COK's Paul Shapiro. The speakers attacked Wood's infamous vivisection from every angle: the cruelty to the primates, the scientific flaws in the experiments, and the huge waste of government money while drug rehabilitation programs go underfunded.

Immediately after Paul's speech brought the rally to a close, four activists in prison suits with monkey masks, joined by another activist, linked arms and marched to the doors of HHS where they sat down and successfully blocked the entrance. The activists were followed by an enormous crowd of protesters, who chanted and waved vivid posters of vivisected monkeys. The action was a huge success, drawing much attention to the protest—including the interest of media arriving for an afternoon press conference with HHS Secretary Donna Shalala. Police then dragged the activists away, injuring three of the five. Two were taken to a local hospital.

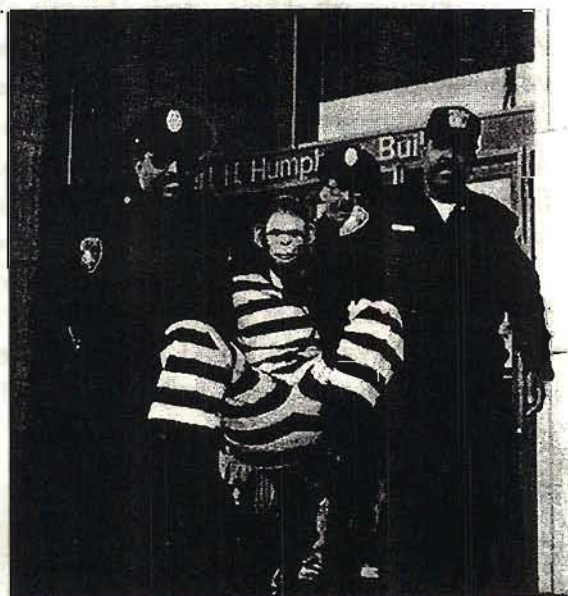


Ron Wood's hideous vivisection is still being funded with your tax dollars! Please write to express your displeasure to the following:

The Honorable Robert Livingston
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Health and
Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Thomas Jackson
President, Univ. of Rochester
240 Administration Building
Rochester, NY 14627



PAUL WATSON FREED!



Captain Paul Watson, Sea Shepherd president and Greenpeace co-founder, was arrested by Dutch authorities on April 2, 1997. His crime: standing up to Norway's illegal whaling industry. For years, Norway has wanted to get their hands on Captain Watson and put an end to his defense of whales. As a result, the Netherlands captured Watson and held him until an extradition hearing was convened.

In support of this warrior for the whales, thousands of animal advocates around the world rallied for Watson and persistently called upon the Dutch government to free him, rather than extradite him to Norway where he would most likely not survive in the jail system.

COK along with the Fund for Animals took to the Dutch Embassy. For nearly two hours, more than 30 activists waved posters and chanted outside the Embassy's entrance. According to COK spokesperson Paul Shapiro, "We were there on behalf of Paul Watson and the whales whose lives depend on him. We had to let the Netherlands and the rest of the world know that Norwegian whalers are the true criminals."

The Netherlands announced on June 9, 1997, that they would drop all charges against Watson and not extradite him to Norway. Sighs of relief came from the entire animal rights community. After the announcement, Watson stated: *By releasing me, the Dutch court is sending a clear message to Norway that the Netherlands will not be politically manipulated into granting credibility to illegal Norwegian activities.*

THE ABOLITIONIST IS THE NEWSLETTER OF COMPASSION OVER KILLING.

**THE EDITORIAL BOARD IS COMPRISED OF
MIYUN PARR, PETER PETERSEN, PAUL SHAPIRO, AND FRANKLIN WADE.**

Tips from Seasoned Activists

The following tips were sent to Compassion Over Killing from activists around the country. The intent of this list is to provide you with activities that can be executed on your own. While going to a couple of demos a month is great, the animals need more. As billions of animals suffer through unspeakable horrors 24-hours each day, the least we can do is take a few minutes out of our day for them.

* Please note that COK does not endorse nor condemn illegal activities.

1. When browsing through the magazine section of your local grocery store or book-store, put pro-animal stickers on the front cover of hunting and fishing magazines, insert anti-hunting and anti-fishing literature inside, or cleverly place them where they most likely won't be found, such as behind other magazines or shelved items.
2. Educate the public by handing out animal rights literature in areas where foot traffic is high. Also, carry leaflets with you in your bag and leave a couple wherever you go (on the bus, subway, doctor's office, etc.).
3. In the grocery store, take a supply of Lobster Liberation stickers with you and plaster them onto lobster tanks. Also, it's great if you "hide" the lobster rake!
4. When the junk mail begins to pile up, stuff prepaid reply envelopes with animal rights literature. Spread the word about animal liberation!
5. Flyposting graphic posters and expressive ads affords the public a first-hand glimpse into the suffering of animals. Be discrete and be cautious. Plaster your town with images of the horrors of animal abuse and encourage compassion and action.
6. Call, call, and call some more. Encourage animal exploiters such as furriers, pet stores, slaughterhouses, etc., to choose a cruelty-free line of work. Enlighten them.
7. A classic tip: At the market, place packages of expensive flesh in your cart and hide them behind shelved products as far away from the refrigerated section as possible. We've heard meat won't last too long once out of the cooler.
8. Alternatives to relocating packs of flesh at the store include affixing stickers over the price and/or barcode that tell consumers exactly what they're getting when they buy meat--the diseased remains of a tortured animal--and putting veg literature under the meat packages.
9. Spread the word about animal rights wherever you go by affixing pro-animal stickers to parking meters, pay phones, benches... everything! If you don't have any stickers, contact COK.

Small things done frequently by many people have a great impact.

Please work for a more compassionate world by including activism in your daily life.

Educate to liberate, and have fun while you're doing it!

If you have activist tips, please send them to: Activist Tips, COK, P.O. Box 9773, Washington, D.C. 20016.

MILLER'S FURS CAMPAIGN UPDATE.....

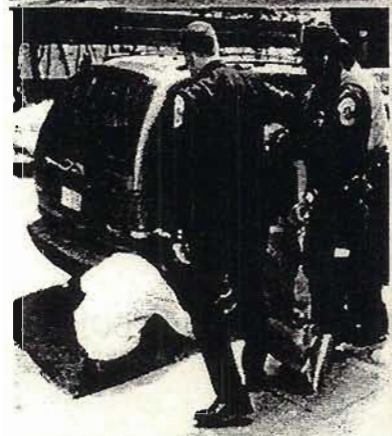
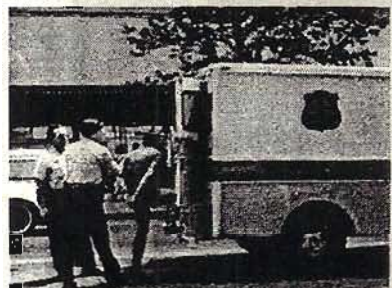
Furrier Fibs for False Arrests

On May 3, 1997, five Compassion Over Killing activists were unexpectedly arrested at a peaceful demonstration against Miller's Furs in Washington, D.C. The activists—four adults and one minor—were accused of pushing and shoving a customer and the manager of Miller's as they tried to enter the store. All five activists were charged with simple assault. The minor was released late that night to his parents, while the four adults were held for approximately 30 hours before they were finally released on their own recognizance. All four adults were arraigned at 9:00 a.m. that following Monday, while the minor was arraigned one week later; all pled not guilty.



The entire demonstration—including the alleged assault—was videotaped by, oddly enough, one of the activists charged. The tape clearly shows that not only could the activists have in no way assaulted the pair as they entered the store, but, in fact, that one of the activists was assaulted by the store manager. The minor has already been exonerated by the videotape, and the other four are awaiting trial. However, the evidence clearly shows that the two plaintiffs lied and falsely accused the males who appeared to be in charge of the demo. Additionally, the police were rather overzealous in their willingness to make arrests as the District had implemented a new "Zero Tolerance" policy in which police officers are reviewed with regards to the total number of arrests made. (In fact, the next day, May 4, 1997, the *Washington Post* ran an article on the ineffectiveness and dangers of "Zero Tolerance" as officers without any "arrest experience" were booking individuals left and right.)

It is obvious that Miller's Furs is feeling the effect of Compassion Over Killing's efforts as they resort to frantic, illegal accusations in an attempt to intimidate the activists into submission. However, Miller's will be disappointed to find out that their illegal acts, which are intended to divide us, only bring us closer together and inspire us to increase the pressure we are applying to those who profit from the suffering of innocent animals.



.....MILLER'S FURS CAMPAIGN UPDATE



The Almanac — May 21-27, 1997 — Page 7

ANTI-FUR ACTIVISTS PROTEST AT POTOMAC HOME

Members of the Washington-based animal rights group Compassion Over Killing (COK) staged a weekend of protests against Miller's Furs, including one Sunday morning outside owner Manny Miller's Potomac home.

From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., a handful of activists circled outside Miller's house, carrying graphic photographs of dead animals and chanting, "Don't support killers, boycott Miller's." On Saturday afternoon, the group protested at Miller's Washington store.

COK spokesperson Miyun Park explained that two weeks before, five activists were arrested outside the D.C. store and, she claimed, "falsely" accused of assault; they have since been released on their own recognizance. This weekend's protests were organized in support of the activists, Park said.

According to Park, Miller and his family were home Sunday morning and were, she said, "none too pleased we were there, but we were exercising our First Amendment rights and we weren't breaking any laws." Miller could not be reached for comment.



Animal rights activists protest outside the Potomac home of furrier Manny Miller last Sunday.

"We will keep the pressure on Mr. Miller," Park added. "As long as he continues to make his living off the murder of animals, we'll continue to speak out on their behalf."

Keep the Pressure on Miller's!

Approximately 13 million animals are killed each year by the fur industry in the United States alone. Help us encourage the Miller's to find a cruelty-free line of work...

Manny & Polly Miller
8317 Snug Hill Rd.
Potomac, MD 20854
301-983-1658

Miller's Furs
6900 Wisconsin Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301-656-3877

Miller's Furs
1335 F St., N.W.
Wash., D.C. 20004
202-628-5628

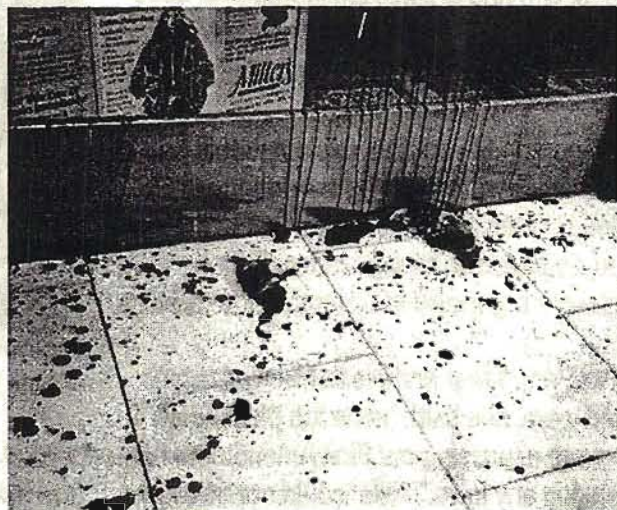
THE ~~ALF~~ STRIKES AGAIN... AND AGAIN...AND AGAIN...



Miller's Furs, Washington, D.C.: 03/01/97
Paint bombed.



Andriana Furs, Washington, D.C.: 04/13/97
Spraypainted: "Killers" and "Fur Hurts"



Miller's Furs, Washington, D.C.: 05/03/97
"Mink bombed."



Miller's Furs, Washington, D.C.: 05/10/97
Hit with paint-filled green pepper "bombs."

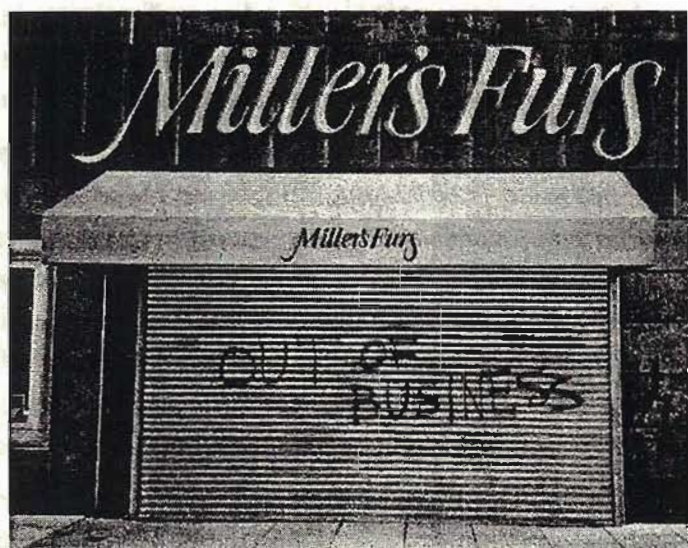


Miller's Furs, Chevy Chase, MD: 05/18/97
Parking lot spraypainted: "Fur Is Murder," "ALF," "Stop Now!" and "Killers."

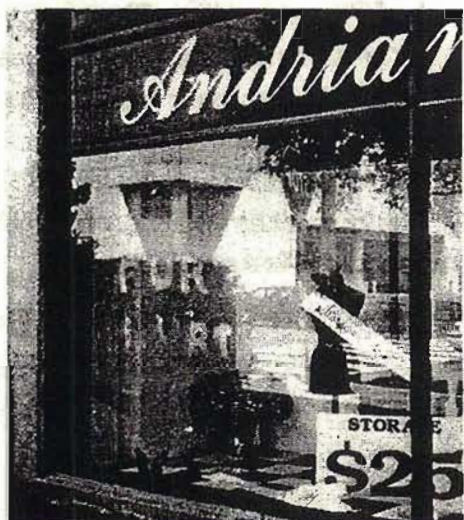
Miller's Furs, Chevy Chase, MD: 05/18/97
 Spraypainted: "Stop or Be Stopped," "Murderers," "Fur Is Dead," and "ALF."



Miller's Furs, Chevy Chase, MD: 06/07/97
 Spraypainted: "ALF," "Fur Is Dead," and "Stop Now." Parking sign painted.



Miller's Furs, Washington, D.C.: 06/08/97
 Spraypainted: "Out of Business."



Andria Furs, Washington, D.C.: 06/08/97
 Window etched: "Fur Hurts."



Miller's Furs, Washington, D.C.: 06/09/97
 Miller's Furs security guard and Manny Miller's son attempt to clean their conscience.

COK'S 16 STEP GUIDE TO BETTER PROTESTS



1. Videotape every demo. This came in particularly handy for COK at a recent Miller's demo when five activists were arrested (see pg. 8). If anyone pushes or punches you, accuses you of any misconduct, or should you be arrested, you will need this videotaped evidence.

2. Wear canvas shoes. I know you paid good money for those fancy vegetarian shoes, but if you wear them to protests, people will concentrate on your "leather" shoes. I

had an experience at a circus demo where a woman fought with me for ten minutes about my shoes. Yes, leather has nothing to do with cruelty to animals at the circus, but it was a waste of my time to engage in this argument and it detracted from the demo; conversely, if I didn't say anything in defense of my fake leather shoes, it would appear as if I was in fact wearing the skins of dead animals, leaving the woman with the impression that I was a hypocrite and/or selective in my compassion for animals. It's better to simply avoid this situation.

3. Don't confuse the issue. If you're at an anti-fur demo, don't wear your "Meat Is Murder" t-shirt. Most people passing by the demo will only see you for about two to five minutes, and you want to get one simple message through, clearly. If they are confused about what exactly you are demonstrating against, you have not accomplished your goal.
4. Document and keep logs on police officers on the scene. Make sure you get both their badge numbers and their names. This spring, leafleting against the March of Dimes, a police officer body-slammed an activist to the ground. In the confusion we did not get the name and badge number, so our attempts to file a complaint were unsuccessful. This is a mistake we'll never make again. Don't be shy in demanding to know with whom you're dealing. Write this information down immediately on a notepad, and ask them to spell their full names for you. They may not appreciate your knowledge of your rights, but they will be much less likely to abuse an activist if they know that you know who they are. Also, should anything happen, you'll know who against whom you should file a complaint.
5. Be vocal. Use megaphones and have an already-written list of chants. Be sure to keep the chants going; don't pause or have long moments of silence. Again, much of your audience is simply passing by and even a few moments of silence means you haven't reached as many people as you could have.
6. Photograph every demo. These photos not only make a good record of your actions and good visuals for *The Abolitionist*, but also, like the videotape, can become useful evidence in case of emergency. If police officers arrive on the scene, be sure to take photos of their faces and their badges. Document everything that happens!



7. Have picket signs with clearly written, short slogans that make sense on their own. Very few people will bother to read your sign twice, and yours may be the only sign they read as they drive past.



8. Use banners. Because of their size, banners can reach those you might otherwise miss: the people walking on the other side of the street, people looking at the protest from their office windows, people driving on the far side of the road, etc.



9. Have a support team ready regardless of whether or not activists are planning to risk arrest. Even if a CD isn't scheduled, you never know when an arrest might take place, so be prepared with rolls of quarters and phone numbers of local police stations. The support team must be able to go to the station and pick up activists as well as make arrangements to care for companion animals of jailed activists, and call their families, employers, or significant others.
10. Leaflet at each demo to passersby and to cars driving in front of the place of protest. This will give those who take a leaflet much more in-depth information on the issue than they'll get from a protest alone. If they take the leaflet home with them, you could potentially reach another audience—their roommates, family members, co-workers, or friends.
11. Don't fight with passersby or patrons who will distract you from the protest. These individual arguments rarely convince anyone to change, and they take your voice away from the protest. You are at the protest to get your message across clearly, loudly, and repeatedly, and arguing with the teenager who is waving his cheeseburger in your face will not accomplish this goal.
12. Don't stand around and talk. This is probably the least effective use of your time at a demo. Go out for vegan treats and a chat after the demo, but while you're protesting, concentrate on the chanting, marching, and picketing. It's important not to look bored or distracted. Hold your sign erect and actively participate in the demo by continually circling in front of the place of protest when appropriate.
13. When the media are present, chant loudly with fists up in the air. The media has the potential to reach tens of thousands of people, so you want to look good and make sure they can hear your message.
14. Send out a news release to media outlets before each demo and take the time to make follow-up calls. They won't show up unless you let them know an action is planned.
15. Designate a media spokesperson armed with short, concise, and powerful soundbytes. It is much better to be prepared for possible media coverage than to be caught off-guard and left stumbling for words to describe whatever cruelty you are protesting.
16. Get activists active! Set up and use a phone tree, e-mail listserve, postcard mailing, etc., to send out the word on upcoming demos.

COK MERCHANDISE

POSTERS

*RESPECT YOUR FELLOW EARTHLINGS...\$2 ea

*MEAT STINKS...\$1 ea

VIDEOS

COK has two videos every activist needs for his or her library. Send us a blank VHS tape and a note as to which tape you want (or two tapes for both videos), plus \$5, and we'll send 'em out!

TAPE 1 INCLUDES ALL OF THE FOLLOWING TITLES...

*CHEAP TRICKS

*HUMANE SLAUGHTER

*CLASSROOM CUT-UPS

*PINK FLOYD/GRAPHIC FOOTAGE

*THE DINER VIDEO

*SHAMEFUL SCHEME (on fur)

*DOWN SIDE OF LIVESTOCK MARKETING

TAPE 2 INCLUDES...

*ANGELS OF MERCY? (on the A.L.F.)

*ANIMAL LIBERATION: THE MOVIE (by the A.L.F.)

T-SHIRTS



FRONT



BACK

*No More Animal Exploitation T-Shirt...\$15 (L & XL): This shirt is available with white lettering on black or dark green. When ordering, please specify color and size.



*Dog on a Plate T-Shirt...\$15 (L & XL):
The COK logo is printed on the back.
Available only in white.



*I Was Arrested for the Animals T-Shirt...
**FREE TO ACTIVISTS ARRESTED
FOR COK CD!** The COK logo is printed
across the front. Available only in white.

ORDERING INFORMATION

All prices include shipping and handling.

Please make checks and money orders
payable to
Compassion Over Killing.

Send payment and your order to:
Compassion Over Killing
P.O. Box 9773
Washington, D.C. 20016

Thank you for your support!

What Is Compassion Over Killing?

Compassion Over Killing is a grassroots animal rights activist network. Our main focus lies in organizing protests against animal exploiters, such as furriers and fast-food restaurateurs and patrons. Based in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, we've been active for two years. COK is growing, though, with members across the country. By holding protests and educating consumers, COK actively works to cut the profits made by animal exploiters--profits gotten from the tortured lives of countless animals.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A COMPASSION OVER KILLING MEMBER,
PLEASE SEND A TEN DOLLAR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:**

COMPASSION OVER KILLING.

YOU'LL RECEIVE ACTION ALERTS, PETITIONS, UPDATES, AND A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO *THE ABOLITIONIST*.

**COMPASSION OVER KILLING
P.O. BOX 9773
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016**

GOOD INTENTIONS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH. GET ACTIVE!

PUT COMPASSION INTO ACTION...GET ACTIVE!



COMPASSION
OVER KILLING

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