



SAMPLE PREVIEW #1

**THE A.L.F.
STRIKES AGAIN**

COLLECTED WRITINGS
OF THE NORTH AMERICAN
ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT

Edited by Peter Young

Loma Linda University (+ more)

1987-1989



How one anonymous activist formed
a prolific A.L.F. cell, raiding numerous
labs and farms in the late 1980s.

In the early 1980s, I first heard of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) when they raided the University of California at Riverside. Nearly 1,000 animals were rescued from laboratories, and I immediately knew that this was the kind of animal rights activity I wanted to become involved with. It wasn't until a later trip to England that I learned of the autonomous cell-like structure of the ALF which allows any group of individuals to call themselves "ALF" if they follow the group's basic guidelines.

When I returned to the U.S., I began to privately evaluate the few animal rights activists I had met to determine who might be most willing to accept my offer to start an ALF cell. I didn't want to ask people who would only decline and then be aware that I was recruiting for illegal direct action. At a regional animal rights conference, I had met a few young, like-minded activists who I felt were inclined to direct action and proposed to them my idea which they readily agreed was similar to their own.

Having been exposed to the effectiveness of the A.L.F.'s direct action campaigns in Britain, where not just animal liberations, but fire bombings, were employed to thwart animal abuse, it was decided that we would take the ALF down a new road in the U.S.-a road where our prime objective would be maximum destruction of the property used to exploit animals and the Earth, not minimum damage. We knew that other ALF cells focused on live animal liberations that often were aimed at attracting public attention to particular abuse, but we were more determined to have our actions impact the profitability involved in animal abuse rather than simply gather public support.

Though most of us had already engaged in individual direct action, such as inflicting economic sabotage against local fur and butcher shops, our first initiation as an ALF cell came in the spring of 1987, when it was decided that we would target a laboratory animal supplier in southern California. The rabbit breeding operation was located in a rural area that would allow us to drive our vehicle close enough to pick up the rabbits we would be rescuing. We entered the premises from neighboring fields and within minutes were shuttling wet burlap bags with rabbits into the awaiting vehicle. By the end of the night, 116 rabbits had been spared from the horrors of vivisection.

Next we targeted a battery egg farm where security was nearly non-existent. With cardboard animal carriers in arm, we moved into the long barns housing literally thousands of hens. What quickly became evident was the frustration and depression encountered by animal liberators who are forced to

choose between which animals live and, by not rescuing more, which animals will be left to die. The euphoria felt when one successfully drives away in a vehicle loaded with liberated animals quickly wears off when you remember the thousands you were forced to leave behind.

Of course, it is impossible to rescue all animals living in abusive conditions, but once you have crossed that threshold where you accept individual responsibility for intervening to save animals' lives, you feel an even greater obligation to rescue victims of animal abuse.

Animal liberation becomes more of a realistic practice than an abstract philosophical theory, and direct action only becomes more of a personal necessity than a moral obligation to preserve one's peace of heart and mind in our overwhelmingly cruel world.

Our cell's strategy to remain empowered rather than powerless against the tide of animal abuse was to escalate to tactics that would target the property of animal abusers, rather than just aim to rescue a few victims. It was theorized that more animals can be spared abuse when the machines and buildings used to torture them are destroyed. In many situations, live animal liberations were easily recovered from when a vivisector or factory farmer replaced rescued animals at a minimum of costs. It was decided that we would begin to use arson.

Watching the *Animal's Film* one night, two members of our cell were upset after having been exposed to the conditions veal calves endure on factory farms. What normally might have led to depression, instead fueled action.

That very same night, the two ALF activists visited a veal processor in the San Francisco Bay Area where they were able to jar a door open into a warehouse. Gasoline was liberally spread throughout, and a crude cigarette timer was used to ignite the building which suffered tens of thousands of dollars in damages. Before the year was out, a slaughterhouse, livestock auction yard and fur shop all went up in flames without any injuries.

In the summer of 1988, our cell targeted its first vivisection laboratory. Previously, we had mistakenly believed that animal research labs were impenetrable due to increased security as a result of earlier ALF raids, yet a veteran ALF activist assured us that even the most secure lab always has a weak security link. We began to survey the laboratory of baboon heart transplant researcher

Leonard Bailey at Loma Linda University (LLU) in southern California.

By August we had discovered that the field station where Bailey operated, just off campus, lacked a security system. By the night of the raid, we had already entered the laboratory repeatedly, removing documents to photocopy before returning them the same night. The night of the action, we were not only able to smash tools of vivisection, but were delightedly surprised to find five recently-arrived puppies accompanying the two full-grown Labrador retrievers we had planned on liberating. By the end of the night, hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage had been done to the lab and seven dogs were on their way to new, loving homes.

Before the LLU raid, animal rights activists dismissed lab raids as no longer possible. Our cell found this to be a self-defeating excuse to avoid the serious work and responsibility necessary to carry out lab raids.

As opposed to attacks on property, lab raids require an incredible amount of surveillance and planning. One must spend endless hours observing targeted buildings until a cycle of activity reveals itself whereby the liberator can then determine a window of opportunity within to act. It may only be 30 minutes or an hour when no one is in the target building, but a well-disciplined ALF cell needs little more.

Our next major action was to be a raid on the University of Arizona at Tucson. After more than two years of working together, our cell had developed a working dynamic whereby we could identify each member's strong points and assign him or her roles in an action accordingly.

Our intelligence gathering members had spent months surveilling the U of A and had identified numerous weak links in the security of its animal research facilities.

Disguised as students, cell members had identified animal holding rooms to be targeted and entry points for the team of rescuers to gain access to the actual labs.

By sifting through the garbage of the targeted buildings, we were able to find rough drafts of research protocols, unpublished notes, invoices and a discarded set of blueprints for the entire microbiology building.

On the night of the action, our surveillance had paid off and rewarded us a window of 50 minutes between security patrols. As soon as the patrol passed, our team entered the building and rode the elevator to the fifth floor where we quickly began to smash through the doors of four separate animal rooms. In less than 30 minutes, we were riding the elevator back down with more than 900 rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, mice and frogs.

Our animal transport team met us at the doors of the building where we quickly loaded the animals for their getaway. Within three minutes of our departure, the security patrol passed harmlessly by unaware of the activity since their last pass.

At another basement level lab on campus, cell members removed an extractor ventilation fan to gain entry to the building where an additional 100 rats were rescued from psychology experiments. In a third research building, 120 mice were emptied from their cages and an incendiary device was placed in the vacant laboratory under construction.

Our last course of action was to plant incendiary devices in the basement of the off-campus residence offices for the U of A's animal research department where computer records of all experiments were stored. The ensuing fires at the two buildings injured no living being and destroyed irreplaceable files and records as two vehicles with over 1,000 animals safely made their getaway. It was the largest liberation raid on an animal research facility in the ALF's U.S. history.

After these successful raids, our small ALF cell had proven that a handful of people can truly wage an effective guerrilla campaign against an otherwise immense industry. In true ALF fashion, we had employed tactics that exploit advantages that only anonymous hit-and-run activists can benefit from. We didn't attack the vivisection and factory farm industries head-on, but bit at their flanks and other weak points where their security was weak.

In this way, our small group of committed activists with very limited resources was able to rescue hundreds of animals while costing their abusers millions in not only destroyed buildings and equipment, but increased security costs. In traditional guerrilla fashion, we struck when our opponents were least expecting it and then melted away into the shadows to evade the net thrown by federal and state law enforcement determined to capture us.

Following the U of A raid, a law enforcement publication reported that of

150 leads in the U of A raid criminal investigation, not a single one led to any credible evidence.

Now it is 1999 and raiding animal abuse facilities is a federal crime punishable with years in prison, but the ALF survives. Recent raids—including the University of Minnesota raid—have proven that there are still weak links in the vivisection industry awaiting the strength of committed activists willing to break them.

The ALF is not a highly organized, militarily-structured terrorist organization. It is people like you and me who are fed up with the ineffectiveness of a political process that favors big business and profit before human and animal welfare. The ALF is the people's response to governments' lack of responsibility to eliminate institutionalized animal abuse and cruelty. As animal liberationists, we must not be intimidated by the consequences of our convictions. No amount of prison faced by an ALF member can compare to what the victims we have rescued endured in their forced captivity.

We must prove our love for our animal relations with actions not words. Don't just say you believe in animal liberation, with individual direct action, show it.

Underground group defaces lab

Red paint splashed, animals taken in Loma Linda

By **STEPHAN STERN**
Sun Staff Writer

LOMA LINDA — An underground animal rights group took credit Monday for a pre-dawn raid on a Loma Linda University Medical Center laboratory, confiscating 18 animals it claimed were victims of painful experimentation.

Sheriff's officials said the intruders poured red paint over telephones, typewriters, clothing, a microwave oven and a television, and scrawled slogans on the walls such as "murderers" and "torturers."

"Everything possible felt the wrath of the red paint. It was splashed all over," said Jim Bryant, spokesman for the San

Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

The Animal Liberation Front, an extremist group opposed to animal vivisection, claimed responsibility for the raid through Margo Tannenbaum, an San Bernardino animal rights activist.

In a strongly worded press release, the group also crit-

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