

Animal Voice

of South Africa

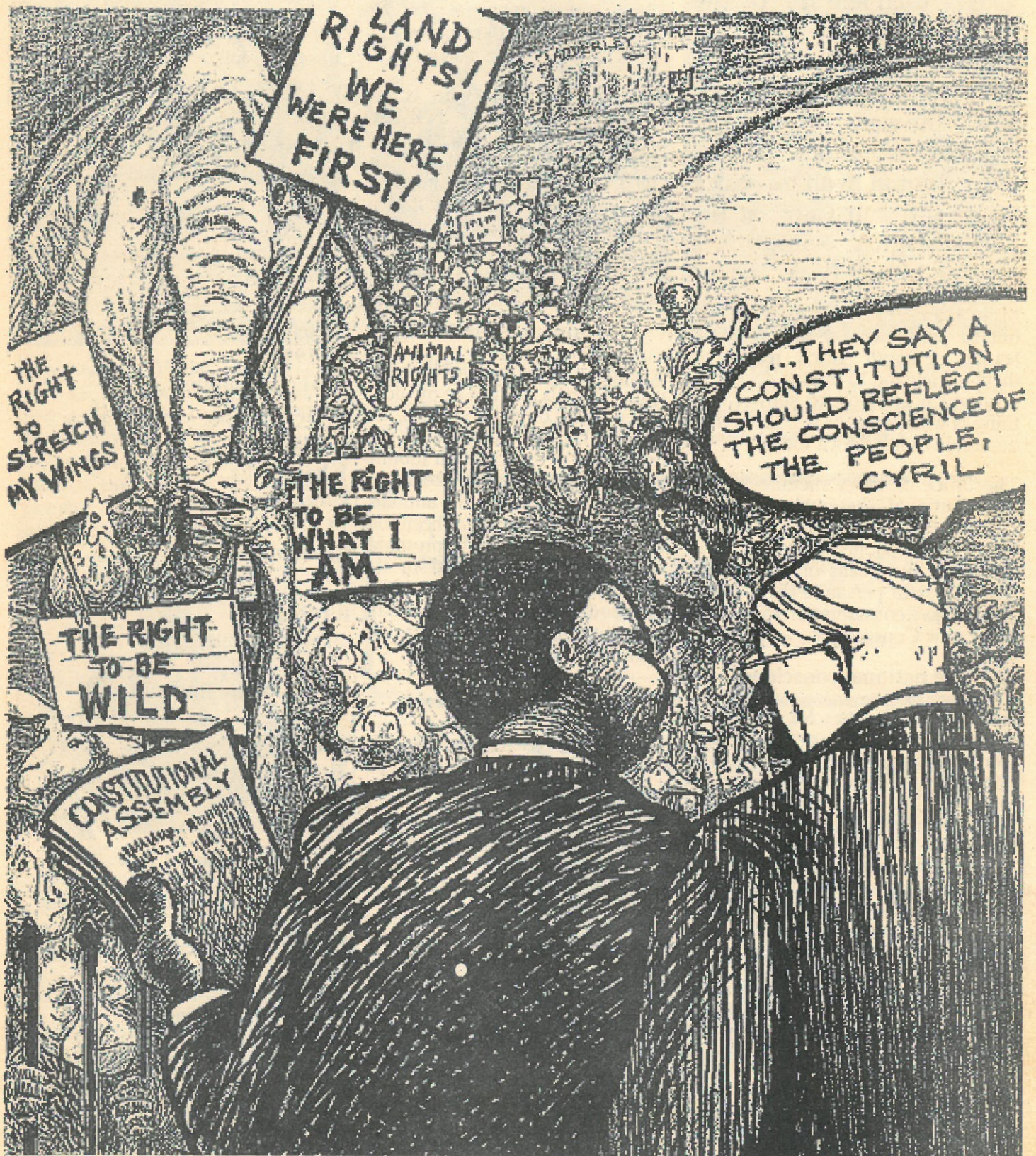
April-June 1996

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EDITORIAL

SOUTH AFRICAN MP's BOYCOTT OUR 10-MINUTE VIDEO!

What an abysmal indictment it is on the calibre of our leaders that only one member of parliament and one clergyman showed up at the lunch-time launch of the animal welfare video "Born into our Care" at the Parliamentary Auditorium on 14th March 1996.

More than 80 invitations were sent out to parliamentary and religious leaders in South Africa, requesting them to view the 10-minute documentary which attempts to show something of what it means to be born non-human in South Africa today.

The office of every member of the Constitutional Assembly's Bill of Rights Committee also received follow-up telephone calls urging them to attend. By means of the video it was hoped to persuade them of the need to give consideration to animals in the new Constitution.

The national conscience

After all, as Cosatu's Mr Neil Coleman recently pointed out on SATV1's Constitutional Talk: "The Constitution is meant to protect the powerless in society". It is also meant to reflect the national conscience.

The date, time and venue of the video were specifically chosen to suit members of the Constitutional Assembly and the invitations were sent out some 10 days prior to the launch.

But only one MP turned up - Mr Willie Hofmeyr - and only one clergyman - Bishop James Gribble of the Methodist Church.

The rest apparently are encapsulated in a humanocentric mind-set that is directly responsible for the horrendous

and needless suffering of our animals every day. One Cape Town Bishop told me that he could not come to the video showing as he would miss his lunch.

President Mandela (who is the Patron-in-Chief of the NSPCA) has said on national television that he hopes we all look at the new Gandhi film. Gandhi extended his compassion to all of creation. His most favoured companion was his goat. He also said that the greatness of a nation could be measured by the way it treated its animals.

Animals excluded

It seems that the writing is on the wall: Animals will not be included in the new Constitution. This, despite the fact we have not been told how many of the 2 million submissions by the public were for the inclusion of a clause on the animals. In addition, we have not been told the reasons why our representations have been ignored in the draft constitution as well as in the outstanding issues. What has happened to open government and transparency?

STOP PRESS



Rev. Prof.
Andrew
Linzey

The NSPCA has invited Prof. Linzey on a lecture tour of SA. We hope he will be able to come. Also see page 10.

Inside This Issue



... for animals too

Petitions to Constitutional Assembly	3
Understanding animal rights	4
Veal crates exposed in SA	5
Pig tethers out by 1999	6
Meat consumption down	6
St Francis of Khayelitsha	7
Forgotten victims of fire	7
Great minds	7
Birdbrain breakthrough	8
Letters to the Editor ...	9
Baboons in Braamfontein	9
The way ahead: 1	10
The way ahead: 2	10
The way ahead: 3	11
Our video... "Born into our care"	11
Animals Protection Act a farce	12
R200-per-minute-reward offer	12

Edited by Louise van der Merwe

"THE CONSTITUTION IS MEANT TO PROTECT THE POWERLESS IN SOCIETY"

- Neil Coleman, Cosatu, Constitutional Talk, SABC1, 16 March 1996

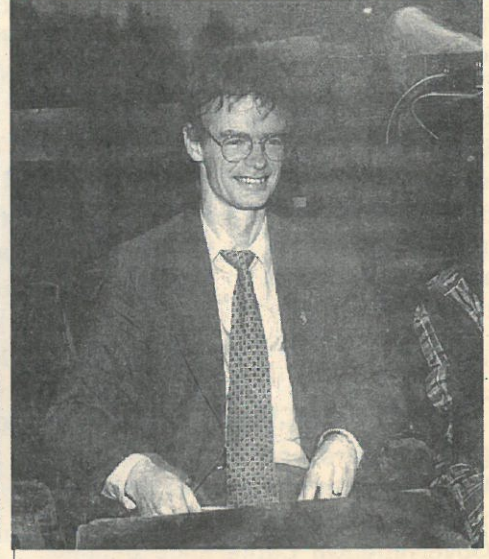
ANIMAL RIGHTS AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY



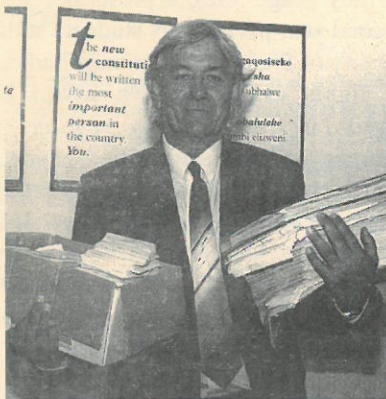
Mrs Marcelle French, Executive Director, NSPCA: "A great man and great leader in our country, President Mandela, has seen fit to be the Patron of the SPCA. Now we ask you, one and all, to follow this example by ensuring animals consideration in law and in kind."



Mr Hassen Ebrahim, Executive Director of the Constitutional Assembly: "We want the final constitution to be one that people can accept as theirs"



Mr Willie Hofmeyr, MP agreed to lobby for the animals and was inundated with 2000 postcards from Animal Voice supporters.



Mr Bernard Daum, Honorary Treasurer of Animal Groups Alliance, handed in a petition with 18 000 signatures for the inclusion of a clause.

"I argue that there can be no reason - except the selfish desire to preserve the privileges of the exploiting group - for refusing to extend the basic principle of equality of consideration to members of other species." - Peter Singer, author, philosopher and green politician.

Dr Michael Levien, Chairman of the LiveStock Animal Welfare Association called, inter alia, for the inclusion of the following clause: "As sentient beings, non-human animals shall be granted the Right of Protection by human beings. They shall be protected by law against all avoidable stress, pain, injury, abuse, disease, hunger, thirst, malnutrition and acts of cruelty and cruel exploitation. They shall be granted the Right, wherever humanly possible, to express their natural behaviour and instincts."

TOP SA ACADEMICS BELIEVE ANIMALS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE REALM OF CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION: They are:

Professor Peter Glavovic, Institute of Environmental Law, University of Natal.

Professor André Rabie, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University.

Dr Hym Ebedes of Onderstepoort veterinary university.

South Africans for the Abolition of Vivisection (SAAV) handed in 7000 signatures calling for the cessation of animal experimentation in South Africa.

Constitution continued ...

Children have been included in the draft bill of rights not because they are human but because "*these most vulnerable members of society*" need special protection (Constitutional Talk). The draft bill is to be commended for including children, but children share the position of "most vulnerable" together with the animals and it is precisely because of this that we ask for the animals to be included in the bill.

The Treaty of Rome

(the cornerstone of EU law) is likely to make changes to the status of animals when the next Inter-Governmental Conference begins in December this year, as a result of massive lobbying by animal rights and welfare bodies. At present the Treaty of Rome classifies animals as "goods" or "agricultural products". More than a million people have signed a petition calling for animals to be given "sentient status", recognising that animals are capable of feeling pain and fear as well as well-being.

"The legal status of ani-

mals in South Africa is far below that which is accorded to animals in German law... In South Africa, an animal is the property of man and in terms of legal status, no differentiation is made between an animal and lifeless possessions... This fact must be taken into account when judging the South African law." - Dr Uwe Schultheiss: Comparison between Animal Protection Laws in Germany and the RSA: Hanover: 1995.

**THE CONSTITUTION IS
DUE TO BE ADOPTED ON
MAY 8 1996**

UNDERSTANDING ANIMAL RIGHTS

So many people laugh when one talks of "animal rights". Their response stems from a lack of understanding of the concept. The following extract from the INTERNET explains what is meant by the concept:

"A 'right' is the flip-side of a moral imperative. For example, if our ethics tells us that we must not kill another, then the other has a right not to be killed by us.

But human rights and animal rights do not necessarily coincide. Consider the human right to vote (which stems from the ethical imperative to give humans influence over actions that influence their lives). Since animals do not understand the concept of democracy and voting, they lack the capacity to vote. There is, therefore, no ethical imperative to allow them to do so, and thus they do not possess the right to vote.

Similarly, some fowls have a strong

biological need to extend and flap their wings; right-thinking people feel an ethical imperative to make it possible for them to do so. Thus, it can be said that fowls have the right to flap their wings. Obviously, such a right need not be extended to humans.

The rights that animals and humans possess, then, are determined by their interests and capacities. Animals have an interest in living, avoiding pain, and even in pursuing happiness (as do humans). As a result of the ethical imperatives, they have rights to these things (as do humans). They can exercise these rights by living their lives free of exploitation and abuse at the hands of humans."

TUKKIES LEARN ANIMAL RIGHTS

According to "Research Methods" by McBurney (Page 382), a prescribed text for second year psychology students at the University of Pretoria, "if animals had the same rights as people, we would be involved in murder by eating a hamburger, guilty of slavery by keeping a dog as a pet and stealing when collecting eggs from a chicken." (Student Life March '96).

ANIMAL VOICE suggests that when we domesticated animals, we entered into a contract with them in which we would protect and care for them in return for what they could offer us. Without the fulfilment of this obligation and duty by us - on both a psychological and physical level - we are, at the very least, guilty of all of the above - murder, slavery and theft. Modern agriculture (and vivisection labs) offer animals existence, frustrating, painful and terrifying, in exchange for our gross and savage exploitation of them. Some of us will contend that eating a hamburger is murder with or without the fulfilment of our obligation to care.

DOUBLE STANDARDS

Farm animals can be kept five to a cage two feet square, tied up constantly by a two-foot-long tether, castrated without anaesthesia, or branded with a hot iron. A pet owner would be no less than prosecuted for treating a companion animal in such a manner." - Michael W Fox, vice-president of the Humane Society in the USA.

EXPOSED!

NEW-BORN CALVES ARE CONFINED IN CRATES IN SA

New-born male dairy calves *are* being kept in crates in South Africa, away from the public eye.

This infamous system which is banned in Britain for its cruelty - involves confining the calves in narrow "crates" and restricting their diet to an iron deficient milky concoction to ensure that their meat will be white and tender.

They go to slaughter between 21 and 120 days.

Pink veal

"Pink" veal is achieved by adding fodder to the diet of the calves and slaughtering them at six months.

It was the plight of British calves being shipped to Continental veal crates that mobilised the British public last year to hold day and night-long vigils along transport routes and at ports.

Blessings by bishop and rabbi

Their vigils persist and the protesters have been joined now by church leaders. The Bishop of Dover, the Rt. Rev. Richard Llewellyn and Rabbi Dan Cohn-Sherbok stood at the docks at Dover recently, blessing the animals as they passed through en route to the Continent.

Now 30 European Parliament members from all parties have pledged their support in banning the veal crate across the European Union.

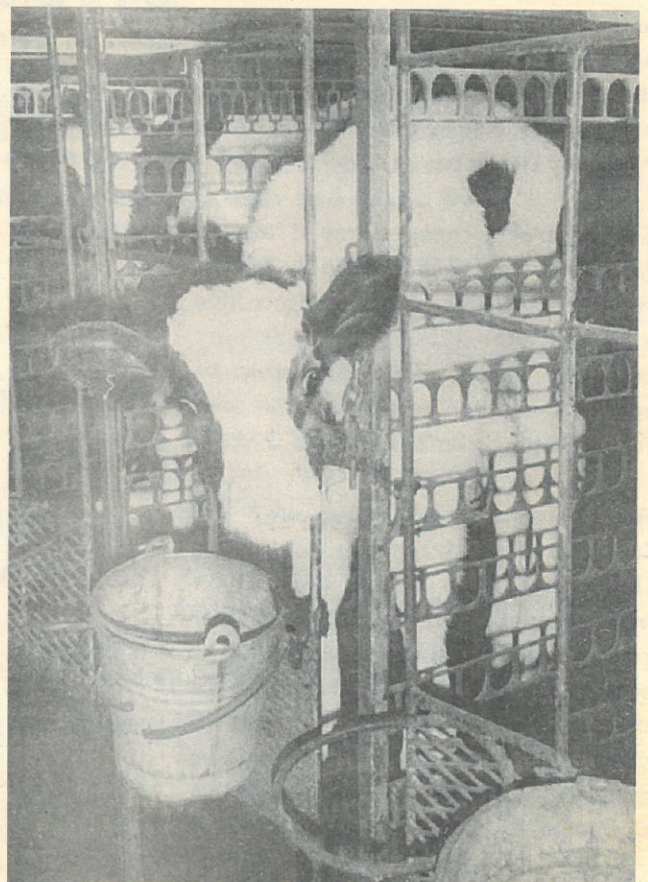


Cows often bellow for their calves for 3 or 4 days and nights continuously.

Photos courtesy NSPCA

No gentle mother's lick for this little one, confined in a veal crate in Gauteng. He will be slaughtered at about 100 days.

The only time he will walk will be when he is led to the truck en route to the abattoir.



TOXIC VEAL

The use of a highly toxic, illegal drug by veal farmers to promote rapid growth in veal calves, has been exposed in the USA.

The drug, known as Clenbuterol has also been widely used in Europe, according to an article in the Los Angeles Times.

The drug can cause increased heart rate, muscle tremors, headache, dizziness, nausea, fever and chills in humans.

PIG TETHERS OUT BY 1999

South African sows face another 3 years of being fixed to the floor by 20cm long chains.



Sows awaiting artificial insemination at a breeding farm in Gauteng.
Pic: Vicky Alhadeff

The infamous "tether"

- a device which attaches pregnant sows to the concrete floor by means of a 20cm long chain, effectively immobilising them for the sixteen weeks of their pregnancies, is to be phased out in South Africa by December 31, 1999.

Tethers are the cheapest way of keeping sows away from each other in the barren confines of the piggery where aggression and even outbreaks of cannibalism are frequent. Sow stalls will now be specially adapted to prevent the sows from climbing over the bars.

After sixteen weeks, the sows are transferred to "farrowing" crates for the birth of their piglets where, once again, immobilised, they stay until their piglets are weaned at 32 days old. The sow is then brought into heat again for reinsemination and the cycle starts all over again. After 8 litters, each yielding about 10 piglets, the worn-out sow is sent to slaughter.

NOTE FROM ED: The phasing out of tethers is a step in the right direction. Next to go please: the horrendous farrowing crate.

It should be noted that free-range pigs do not need to be restricted because aggression does not pose a problem.

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MEAT CONSUMPTION DOWN

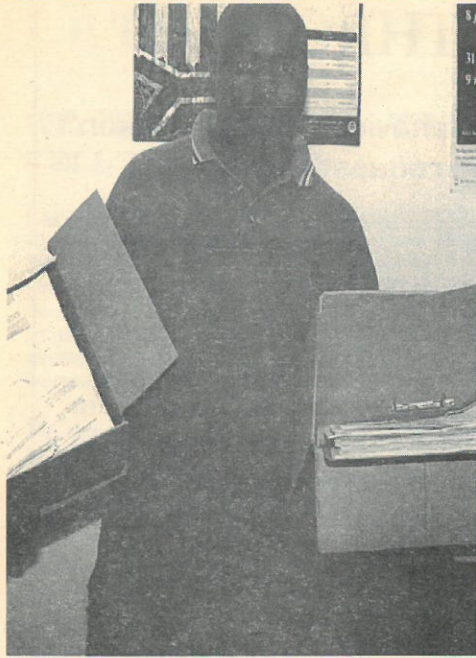
According to CNN News on 21 March 1996, meat consumption in the USA is down by 8 percent on the 1980 figure because of health and welfare considerations. Britain, meanwhile, is facing a total - local and international - boycott of its beef as a result of Mad Cow Disease which, according to one sample, was afflicting one in three cows going into the human food supply. The disease is believed to have broken out among cattle as a result of their feed having included the dead bodies, specifically brains, of sheep suffering from the disease scrapie. Ten Britons have so far died from the human equivalent of Mad Cow Disease, known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. According to Die Burger of 26 March 1996 a patient is currently in a Cape Hospital with this deadly disease. The report claimed that the patient had not eaten contaminated beef. However the Weekend Argus of April 6/7 1996 stated "tons of British beef are still being sold locally".

ANIMAL VOICE would like to remind South Africans that the severe cattle losses in this country in 1994 as a result of the paralysing disease botulism, was blamed on the contamination of cattle feed by dead broiler chickens.

Alarm bells in pig industry too

An outbreak of TB in British pigs has been linked to new animal feeding practices. The London Observer reported in early April 1996 that the outbreak was believed to be due to bird droppings in the feed. Avian TB is common in wild birds and can be passed on to people.

Contact the Vegetarian Society for further information on vegetarianism:
P O Box 15091, Lambton, 1414.



JOE MANGCU armed with AGA petitions for the Constitutional Assembly

THE SAINT FRANCIS OF KHAYELITSHA

Joe Mangcu has a dream - to build a veterinary clinic in Khayelitsha where he lives, in order to cope with the "terrible suffering" of the animals there.

He says he has two dogs of his own but seven more that he feeds. "My wife specially makes them food with bones and gravy," he says. "I want the animals to be helped. It is terribly sad to see the cruelty. I see the people beating the dogs, kicking them and throwing stones and bricks at them. One of my own dogs is crippled after having a brick thrown at his leg.

"I say that the symbol of oppression for township animals is the boot and the stone."

Joe says his awareness of the plight of animals began after his elder brother collapsed and died in a cross-country marathon some years ago. "My brother had a big dog which he loved," explains Joe. "After his death, I had a dream in which my brother came to me. I was amazed that he had his dog with him in my dream as I was away at boarding school in another village at the time and had no idea that the dog had passed away as well.

"When I went home and found out that the dog had died shortly after my brother, it seemed to me that the dog was with my brother and I've had a special feeling for animals ever since."

Joe attends night school and is studying agriculture. One day he hopes to qualify as a vet.

Anyone wishing to help him to build and equip a veterinary clinic in Khayelitsha should telephone him during office hours at (021) 230403 Ext 217.

GREAT MINDS....



Abraham Lincoln:

"I am in favour of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being."

Moliere: "It is not only for what we do, but for what we do not do, for which we are accountable."

Leonardo Da Vinci: "The time will come when men such as I will look upon the murder of animals as they now look on the murder of men."

Milan Kundera, Czech author, critic. *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*: "Mankind's true moral test, its fundamental test (which lies deeply buried from view), consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals. And in this respect mankind has suffered a fundamental debacle, a debacle so fundamental that all others stem from it."

Edmund Burke: "All it needs for evil to succeed is for good people to do nothing."

Albert Einstein: "I believe that Gandhi's views were the most enlightened of all the political men of our time. We should strive to do things in his spirit, not to use violence in fighting for our cause but by non-participation in

FORGOTTEN VICTIMS OF FIRE

Hundreds of animals died in the multiple fires that ravaged the Marconi Bean squatter camp in January this year, says Animal Rescue PRO Karen de Klerk.

When a fire breaks out the people flee in terrible panic. Left behind are the charred bodies of dogs, cats and caged poultry. Animal Rescue tel. no. is (021) 479434.

anything you believe is evil."

Charles Darwin: "The differences between humans and animals are differences of degree, not differences of kind. Since both humans and non-humans evolved over millions of years and share similar nervous systems and other organs, there is no reason to think we do not share similar mental and emotional life with other species."

Mahatma Gandhi: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Thomas Edison: "Non-violence leads to the highest ethics, which is the goal of all evolution. Until we stop

harming all other living beings, we are still savages."

Albert Schweitzer: "It is man's sympathy with all creatures that first makes him truly man."

Albert Einstein: "A human is part of the whole that we call universe, a part limited in time and space. Yet he experiences himself as something separated from the rest. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for the few people nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion."

BIRDBRAIN? SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH

The cognitive abilities of birds are equivalent to those of mammals and in some bird species, even rival those of primates!

This is the finding of Professor Lesley Rogers of the Department of Physiology at the University of New England, Australia, who has spent many years researching the cognitive abilities of the avian brain.

"It is now clear", she says, "that birds have cognitive capacities equivalent to those of mammals, even primates."

Wrong assumption

Till now researchers have assumed that birds are cognitively inferior to mammals because of their smaller brain to body weight ratios and their lack of a neocortex.

"But the complex cognitive abilities of birds impresses us even more because they can perform these cognitive feats with a smaller brain," says Professor Rogers who gives details of her complex research in the newly published paper "The Development of Brain and Behaviour in the Chicken".

For example pigeons were able to remember over 600 different shapes and retain that memory with high accuracy.

She says that with increased knowledge of the behaviour and cognitive abilities of the chicken has come the realization that the chicken is not an inferior species to be treated merely as a food source.

Least respected

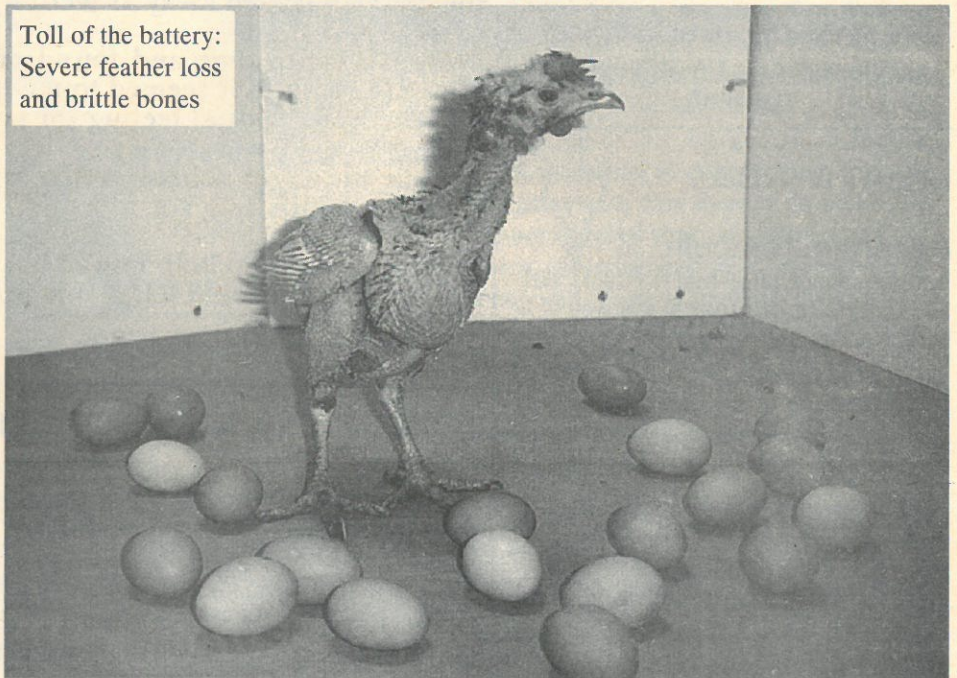
"In my opinion, there is a demand to understand the cognitive abilities of the domestic chicken above all avian species, because this bird is the one we have singled out for intensive farming... It is the avian species most exploited and least respected," she says.

"The Development of Brain and Behaviour in the Chicken" is available from Animal Voice on request.

ON BROILER CHICKENS:

"The commercial production of broiler chickens (table birds) is a grotesque distortion of the principles of good husbandry. Approximately one quarter of broiler chickens are in chronic pain for approximately one third of their lives... this must constitute, in both magnitude and severity, the single most severe, systematic example of man's inhumanity to another sentient animal." -ANIMAL WELFARE: A COOL EYE TOWARDS EDEN BY PROFESSOR JOHN WEBSTER, HEAD OF THE VETERINARY SCHOOL AT BRISTOL UNIVERSITY. PUBLISHED BY BLACKWELL SCIENCE.

Toll of the battery:
Severe feather loss
and brittle bones



"Confining a debeaked hen in a battery cage is more than a moral crime; it is a living sign of our failure to recognize the blessing of God in creation... animals have the right to be animals. The natural life of a Spirit-filled creature is a gift from God. When we take over the life of an animal to the extent of distorting its natural life for no other purpose than our own gain, we fall into sin. There is no clearer blasphemy before God than the perversion of his creatures.

"What makes this situation all the more lamentable is the realization that the use to which animals are put in intensive farming goes far beyond even the most generous interpretation of need. It will be obvious that humans can live healthy, stimulating and rewarding lives without white veal, pate de foie gras, or the ever-increasing quantities of cheap eggs." - Excerpted from Christianity and the Rights of Animals, by Rev Prof Andrew Linzey, Oxford University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE WANT LABELS THAT TELL THE TRUTH

I think it is about time that people wake up to know what it is exactly that they put into their mouths. On the packets of meat, chicken and eggs you often see pictures of contented, happy and healthy animals in open meadows with messages that they are so delicious because they are fed so well.

Please, please, please save us from this rubbish. For the horror story of the century check out for yourself what **FACTORY FARMING** means. It is cruelty, beyond belief.

As with cigarettes, we want the truth. A health warning appears on the cigarette carton. It is compulsory. I am sure I speak for many people when I appeal to Pick 'n Pay, Checkers and the other chains: **PUT THE TRUTH ON THE FOOD YOU WANT TO SELL US. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW.**

MS, Camps Bay, Cape Town

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS IS A CRUELTY TO ALL

The issue of animal rights should not be seen as being in conflict with human rights...

Human rights activists pride themselves on being very civilised and humane because they oppose cruelty, oppression, and injustice to us humans. Why can't this high standard of morality and ethics be extended to animals as well? After all, animals suffer and feel pain just as intensely as humans, perhaps even more so in some cases. Sensitive animals can die from stress.

A violation of an animal's right could also be seen as a violation of a human's right... The distress and trauma experienced by sensitive people when confronted by cruelty to animals must surely count as an infringement of their human rights. - Extracts from a letter to The Natal Witness, February 13, 1996 by

A Calenborne, Pietermaritzburg.

EXTREMELY OFFENSIVE!

We have just returned from a wonderful holiday - spoiled by the sight one day of a tiered truck loaded full of sheep, broken down at the road-side just outside Beaufort West.

As a vegetarian, I find it extremely offensive of my right to a quality of life to be witness to such blatant cruelty which is accepted as normal by many who eat these miserable animals not knowing what they endured before reaching the dinner plate!

Heather Mason, Johannesburg.

CRUELTY: CRIME OR CREDIT

In South Africa there are two kinds of cruelty, it would seem. The one is punishable by law and the other type is rewarded with financial grants, prizes and scientific accolades.

Recently, the news carried the story of the horrific deed committed by Rudolph Mulder who exploded a fire cracker in the rectum of an Alsatian. This abominable act caused people country-wide to rally round to see justice done.

But what about the thousands of animals (mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, dogs, cats, rabbits, pigs, monkeys, baboons, chimps) that daily suffer similar fates at the hands of white-robed men and women called scientists?

In the name of science these vivisectors are allowed to torture, maim and disfigure often-unanaesthetised animals for the so-called "betterment of man".

Quadrupeds are anatomically and physiologically different from humans and as a result react differently to drugs and to medical procedures.

For example, penicillin kills guinea pigs, but strychnine, one of the deadliest poisons known to man, can safely be consumed by them. Similarly, arsenic, an equally deadly poison to man, can be eaten by sheep without ill-effect.

Parsley, a commonly used herb in the kitchen, is lethal to parrots, while aspirin kills cats, mice and monkeys.

Diseases are species-specific and cannot be successfully recreated in a different species.

Let cruelty be a **CRIME** - regardless of who commits it. - *Marius de Waal, Wilderness.*

BLOWTORCH EXPERIMENTS!

According to an inside source, laboratory experiments in SA have included the burning of baboons with blow-torches to test heat resistant materials and the testing of bullets designed to cause maximum injuries without killing for use in possible psychological warfare.

According to Agenda-Newsline 1996, at least 2400 baboons and 390 vervet monkeys were used from 1991 to 1993 in experimentation laboratories in SA. Some are captured by Nature Conservation in Kruger National Park.

BABOONS IN BRAAMFONTEIN

Thousands of people work in the Braamfontein/Parktown area quite unaware that baboons are in their midst - hidden from view in the experimental laboratories of the South African Institute of Medical Research, Wits University Medical School and the National Centre for Occupational Health. For more information, contact SAAV-Johannesburg at P O Box 3018, Honeydew, 2040 and/or Earthlife Africa Animal Action - Box 11383, Johannesburg, 2000.



Cockerel used to "prove" smoking is dangerous to human health. Photo: courtesy British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection.

THE WAY AHEAD

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO LESSEN THE SUFFERING

A THREE-PRONGED PLAN OF ACTION:

1 Insist on proper labelling

We should not doubt for a second the power of the consumer. But consumer-power is a double-edged sword. If consumers are not provided with full information, they can unknowingly reinforce cruelty by buying the products of cruelty.

That's why we need proper labelling.

We don't want to know about "Farm Fresh Eggs" and so-called "Country-Reared" flesh. We want to know: Are the eggs from "caged" chickens or "free-range". Is the bacon from an "intensive" piggery or a "free-range" farm.

As the September 1995 issue of *Journal of Animal Science* (published in USA) points out: "A broad base of consumer concern and sensitivity to the issue of animal well-being has led to a mistrust of science, regulatory agencies and technology in Agriculture itself".

The article continues that there "is an emerging recognition that the public has been progressively excluded from the decision-making process at many levels of government and in the private sector" and suggests that the public should be allowed to become more informed so as to be able to exercise control over their own lives.

"The public wants to know that technological advances in Agriculture are necessary, safe and ethical."

In Germany, consumers are now being invited to visit the farms personally to reassure themselves (PIGS-Misset., Volume 11, No 7 1995) and in Britain, the Ministry of Agriculture has decided to push for a change in egg marketing regulations. This will mean that eggs from battery chickens will carry the label "eggs from caged hens". The Ministry said it took this step "on the grounds of improved consumer information" (Agscene No. 119).

IN SOUTH AFRICA MEANWHILE, the Department of National Health in Pretoria has advised Animal Voice in a fax dated 21 February 1996, that: "there is no intention to require foodstuffs to indicate the production system or to declare production aids".

ANIMAL VOICE SUGGESTS that the Department of National Health, which is in charge of labelling, should quickly come to terms with the fact that South Africa is no longer a paternalistic society and we do not wish to be treated like children, having our decisions made for us.

ACTION: WRITE TO
Dr N. Zuma, Minister of Health, PO Box 15, Cape Town 8000. Tell her we have the right to be informed. We need proper labelling on our foodstuffs.

Let us be EDUCATED consumers - not MANIPULATED consumers.



2 Persuade your local clergymen to start preaching animal welfare from the pulpit.

SEND NOW FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF **ETHICAL CONCERN FOR ANIMALS**, compiled by the Reverend Professor

Andrew Linzey who holds the world's first academic post in Theology and Animal Welfare at Mansfield College, Oxford. This recently published, hugely compelling document outlines the history of modern Western attitudes towards animals and embarks upon a rigorous theological examination on the rights and status of animals. This document will undoubtedly have repercussions throughout the world.

A MUST-READ FOR EVERY SOUTH AFRICAN CLERGYMAN.

"It is now questioned whether humans can justify their morally privileged position in the world. In particular, the earlier view that animals have no rights or intrinsic worth - and can therefore be treated as we want - is undergoing intellectual challenge as never before."
- Andrew Linzey.

"Despite increasing concern for ecological issues, theological ethics continue to be characterised by a narrowly defined humanocentrism - one that is closed to, or largely indifferent to, moral claims beyond the sphere of human to human relationships.... The upshot is that in many areas of the world where majorities of the population are strongly religious, indifference and cruelty to animals abound." - Ethical Concern

IN THE USA ...

A coalition of more than 80 American religious groups (including Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews and Muslims) is asking the US Congress to revoke legislation allowing patenting of genetically engineered animals.



IN GERMANY —

More than 350 interdenominational theologians have signed the Glauberger Confession which is as follows:

We hereby confess before God, the Creator of animals, and before our fellow-man:

We have failed as Christians, because we forgot the animals in our faith.

As theologians we were not prepared to stand up against scientific and philosophical trends, inimical to life, with the Theology of Creation.

We have betrayed the diaconical mission of Jesus and have not served the least of our brethren, the animals.

As Ministers and Preachers we were afraid to give room to animals within our churches and parishes.

As a Church we were deaf to the cries of the abused, ill-treated and exploited fellow-creatures.

Thousands of Germans are now members of the AKUT Association (Action Church and Animals) under the chairmanship of Rev Michael Blanke. AKUT bases itself on Mark, Chapter 16: "And spoke to them thus: Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel of all Creation."

In South Africa —

"Proof that Kindness, Compassion and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is a Biblical Concept" - by Annalize Esterhuizen, Pretoria (1996).

This 24-page in-depth analysis is based on the Holy Bible, King James Version and on "TSA'AR BA'ALE HAYIM, The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, its Bases, Development and Legislation in Hebrew Literature": by Noah J Cohen, Ph.D., Tel Aviv University.

Available from Animal Voice at R10 including p & p.

3 Ask your local member of Parliament to bring animal welfare into the parliamentary arena as a matter of urgency.

Parliamentarians earn R193 200,00 per year. We pay their salaries out of our taxes. The plight of the animals is such that we want action now.



Contact any local political party office to find out which MP is designated to your area. Then try to arrange a personal interview with him or her. Let them be in no doubt that our concern for the animals is no "lunatic fringe" matter. Tell them that our own rights to well-being are demolished as a result of the cruelty to animals happening all around us every day.

The next general election in South Africa is in 1999. Let's tell our MP's face to face that if they want our vote, we don't want lip-service when it comes to the plight of animals in South Africa.

BAREHAND KILLING AT KWAZULU FIRST-FRUIT CEREMONY

"For 40 minutes, dozens trampled the bellowing, groaning bull, wrenched its head around by the horns to try to break its neck, pulled its tongue out, stuffed sand in its mouth and even tried to tie its penis in a knot. Gleaming with sweat, they raised their arms in triumph and sang when the bull finally succumbed.

"We must use our bare hands," said one chief. "It's cruelty, we agree, but it's our culture. We cannot change our culture." (Natal Witness, Dec 12 1995). Commented Mrs Marie Eekhout, chairperson of the NSPCA: "The ugliness of such blatant barbarity inflicted on innocent creatures could result in serious damage here in South Africa and to its image overseas ... There is a very thin line between violence to animals and acts of violence to people."

AVAILABLE FROM ANIMAL VOICE:**BORN INTO OUR CARE**

This is the promised video so many of you helped us to make. Presented by popular television presenter Bob Mobena, it gives a harrowing account of *what it means to be born non-human* in South Africa - on an average day.

Because we were limited in time as we wanted this video to form part of our representations to the Constitutional Assembly, we did not wait around to catch the ultimate atrocities. We simply recorded what we found.

Also on the video, following "Born into our care", is heart-rending footage of a lion hunt, a copy of Brigitte Bardot's film on the plight of animals and the UK's Compassion in World Farming's "For a Few Pennies More".

Please watch it and help us to create awareness by showing it to everyone you can, in schools, libraries and meetings.

The video is available from ANIMAL VOICE at R40 a copy (Including postage & packing). KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS ARE A FARCE

A recently published study by United States attorney, David Wolfson, states that Animal Protection laws are giving the public the false impression that farm (and other) animals are protected from cruelty.

Nothing could be farther from the truth, he says. While anti-cruelty laws still cover farm animals in theory, they are rarely, if ever, applied. 'Accepted farming practice' has become legally permissible, no matter how cruel, he says.

GOOSIE'S STORY



LOUISE VAN DER MERWE

"Goosie's Story" is available from Animal Voice at R46 including p & p.

Ideal as a setwork for Primary School children, this true story highlights the intrinsic wonder and beauty of an animal which has become lost to urban children and which is caught up in the human food chain on farms hidden from public view.

THIS ISSUE OF ANIMAL VOICE IS DEDICATED TO LITTLE BOBBY BABOON, ROBBED OF HIS MOTHER BY A TRIGGER-HAPPY FARMER, THEN ROBBED OF HIS LIFE - AT JUST FIVE WEEKS OLD, BY NATURE CONSERVATION WHO THOUGHT TO KILL HIM WAS BETTER THAN TO LEAVE HIM IN THE LOVING CARE OF CHRIS AND CLAUDETTE BARNES WHO DID NOT YET POSSESS A PERMIT.

IN OUR WARPED LAW, IT IS THUS LEGAL TO KILL WITHOUT A PERMIT BUT NOT LEGAL TO CARE WITHOUT A PERMIT.

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- 4) Pet Walker Service

REWARD

R200 is offered by Animal Voice, sponsored by a supporter, for each minute, or part thereof, of video footage submitted by members of the public and chosen by us, showing the plight of animals in South Africa today.

PLEASE SUPPORT ANIMAL VOICE

Dear Reader, please help us to continue the fight for our animals. Every cent you give is ploughed back into this cause and the more we receive, the more we can do to expose the deprivations and cruelties to which animals are subjected. We must keep on informing the public in order to achieve change.

Name:

Address:

.....

I enclose R for the Animal Cause. Cut out this form and post to PO Box 843, Kuils River 7579.

WE WISH TO THANK ALL THOSE WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE THIS ISSUE OF ANIMAL VOICE POSSIBLE.