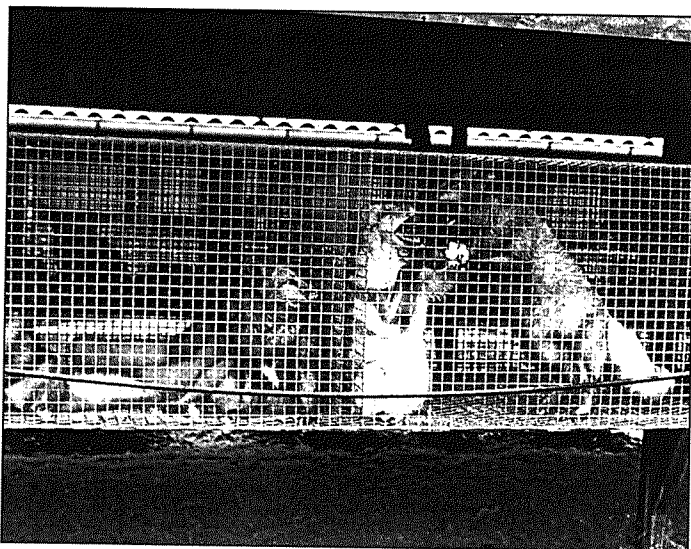




Furriers: 1—Lynx: 0

Lynx, Britain's leading anti-fur organization, is no more. Gone. That is the stark consequence of its loss in the High Court of a libel action brought against it by a fur factory farm. The lawsuit resulted from an article the group wrote in a newsletter in the fall of 1989 in which it described conditions at the factory farm.

The lawyers acting for the plaintiffs were supporters of the fur trade itself, and also represented a number of hunts in the United Kingdom as well as the British Field Sports Society. Fur trade representatives were also in court every day during the five-week trial, directly instructing the fur breeders' lawyers and members of the British and European fur breeders and trade associations, fur trade vets and past employees of the Hudson Bay [Fur] Company to lend their support to the factory farm. Witnesses were called by



the fur trade from the Ministry of Agriculture and even the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Mark Glover, Lynx founder, in discussing the organization's demise, had this to say: "There can be no doubt that the loss of the case is a setback to the campaign against the fur trade in the UK. It is a very great disappointment on a number of levels—not the least of which was the almost total lack of support that Lynx received from other animal groups around the globe. The final irony was to witness an RSPCA inspector offering evidence on behalf of the fur farm—a practice that *that* organization is theoretically opposed to on moral grounds. The impression left in the minds of the jury by his testimony was particularly damning.

"A further handicap that Lynx faced was in the conduct of the trial by the judge. In fact, we have been advised that we have very good grounds for an appeal to the Court of Appeals but we simply do not have the funds to enable us to follow this through. To give but one example of the many bizarre episodes of what took place: a fire that had happened at the farm about 14 months ago was referred to by the plaintiffs no less than four times during the course of the trial. The clear implication and even direct reference from two of them was that the fire had resulted directly from the publication of our article. The plaintiffs clearly stated that there was no electrical supply to the particular building. We called the local fire officer whose report indicated that, in fact, the fire had

probably been caused by an electrical fault and that there were no suspicious circumstances. The judge, incredibly, refused to allow us to call him.

"Of course, Lynx in the U.S. was completely unaffected by the litigation and now plans to increase its level of activity. The fact is that the British arm of Lynx had achieved a lot of what it set out to do by the time of the trial. The majority of fur shops have closed in the UK, the number of fur factory farms has been reduced from 70 three years ago to 22 today (with more closures anticipated), and public opinion is now showing that 80% of those polled believe it is wrong to wear fur coats—an increase of nearly 10% over a similar poll conducted five years ago. This is something that we are very proud of—that in such a short space of time and with so little resources we have been able to have such an impact.

"We hope to repeat what we have done here in the other areas of the world where fur coats are still seen as acceptable.

"And the reason we have to continue is very simple. Each year, tens of millions of animals are still dying, often in extreme pain for no other reason than for the skins of their backs. Trapping and fur breeding represents the most widespread, cruel and indefensible abuse of animals society still condones.

"Personally, I face bankruptcy following what has happened to Lynx but I am more determined than ever to ensure that the fur trade becomes a thing of the past and as soon as possible.

"Lynx in the United States is, I know, also more than prepared to take up the challenge there but it lacks the kind of financial backing it needs to make it truly effective. Readers of *The Animals' Voice Magazine* have helped the organization in the past but your sustained support is needed more than ever to ensure that what has happened in the UK does not turn out to have a long-term effect."

Lynx can be contacted at 10573 W. Pico Blvd., Suite 155, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

CALENDAR:

February 13—Anti-fur protest sponsored by **New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance**, Delaware Valley District (location to be announced). Call Andrea, (609) 768-9594.

March 20—"Great American Meatout" and all its name implies. The day is designed to help people kick the meat habit. "Meatout Action Kit" available. Contact **Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM)**, 10101 Ashburton Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817; (301) 530-1737.

April 18-24—World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week commemorates the millions of living beings who have been tortured and killed in the name of so-called medical research. For details of events in your area, contact **In Defense of Animals**, 816 West Francisco Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901; (415) 453-9984.

May 1—**United Poultry Concerns** will sponsor the Third Annual Spring Mourning Vigil for Chickens. This year's Vigil will focus on the caged laying hen at a large battery cage complex in Maryland. Place and time to be announced. For information contact United Poultry Concerns, PO Box 59367, Potomac, MD 20859; (301) 948-2406.

May 9—**Veal Ban Action**. Happy Mother's Day! Mother cows love their babies, too. Veal production is one of the cruelest forms of animal exploitation. Contact **Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM)**, 10101 Ashburton Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817; (301) 530-1737.