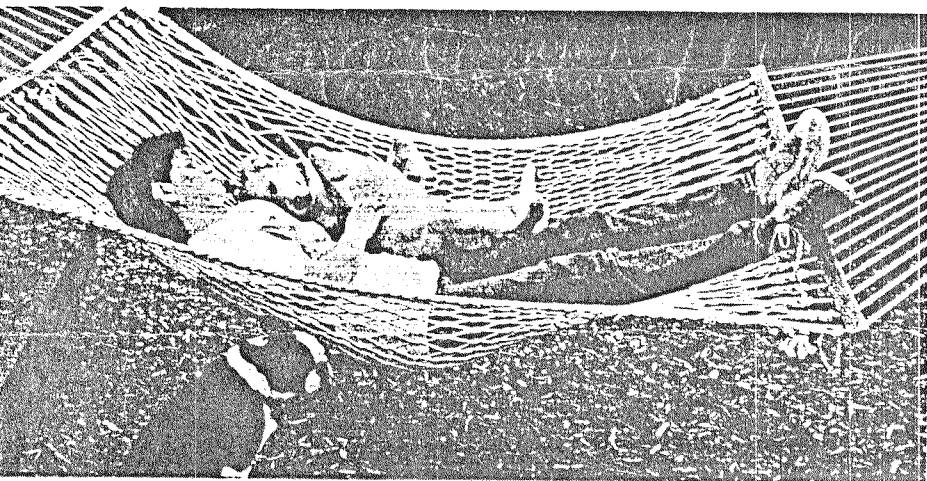


HUNTERS BEWARE: SHE'S BACK!

WOULD YOU GO TO JAIL TO PROTEST CRUELTY?



How did PETA's Mary Beth Sweetland end up in jail? One of her earliest and most vivid memories is of deliberately mowing down a grasshopper with her tricycle, then falling to her knees crying, begging God to bring the grasshopper back to life. Later, she received a shotgun for her 12th birthday to pheasant hunt with her father, but her hunting career ended before she fired a single shot, when her father told her to "take a pot shot" at a crow for practice. Even though she felt humiliated, she just couldn't do it.

Her unerring instinct to respect and sympathize with all life has always

Mary Beth's son Bryan is already a terrific activist in his own right.



Getting some rest with a few of her canine companions.

steered Mary Beth in the direction of compassion. When someone wanted to buy Cardinal O'Hare, the rabbit she had raised, at the 4-H fair, she cried again and switched to raising veggies (which Cardinal O'Hare happily lived on for years).

"Since crying doesn't get the results it did when I was a kid," she says, "I've learned to take other action for the animals."

So, Mary Beth became the second person in the United States to go to jail under Maryland's hunter "harassment" law. Mary Beth had spent the first day of bow hunting season walking beside hunters asking them questions—when they had planned on creeping unnoticed through the woods and running an arrow through a deer's heart. "I decided to challenge a law that sanctions gunning down deer with high-caliber weapons and bows that pack 1500 pounds of pressure. A law that puts people's and other beings' lives at risk—but prosecutes people who nonviolently speak up in defense of the victims," said Mary Beth. "I will not give one penny to a system that does not support my First Amendment



Ron, Mary Beth's husband, was tickled to have her back.

rights." Maryland is one of 37 states with so-called hunter harassment laws on the books, laws that are now being challenged by people who love "wild-life" alive.

At first adamant that Mary Beth should eat whatever was served, prison officials relented when they saw she was serious about not eating animal products and provided her with vegan meals. Mary Beth discussed her reasons for being there with her fellow prisoners (including one deer hunter!) and was delighted to find some of them receptive to animal rights ideas and even supportive of her. "All in all, going to jail wasn't such a bad experience," Mary Beth says. "It taught me a lot and made a lot of other people stop and think about what hunted animals go through." ■

-WHAT- YOU CAN DO ■ Use Mary Beth's example to give you strength in your activism. If she can spend a week in jail, how tough is it just to summon up the courage to speak to someone about fur or meat or dissection?

■ Organize a hunt sabotage next hunting season. Send for PETA's free brochure, "How to Sabotage a Hunt."

■ Support PETA's Activists Legal Defense Fund.