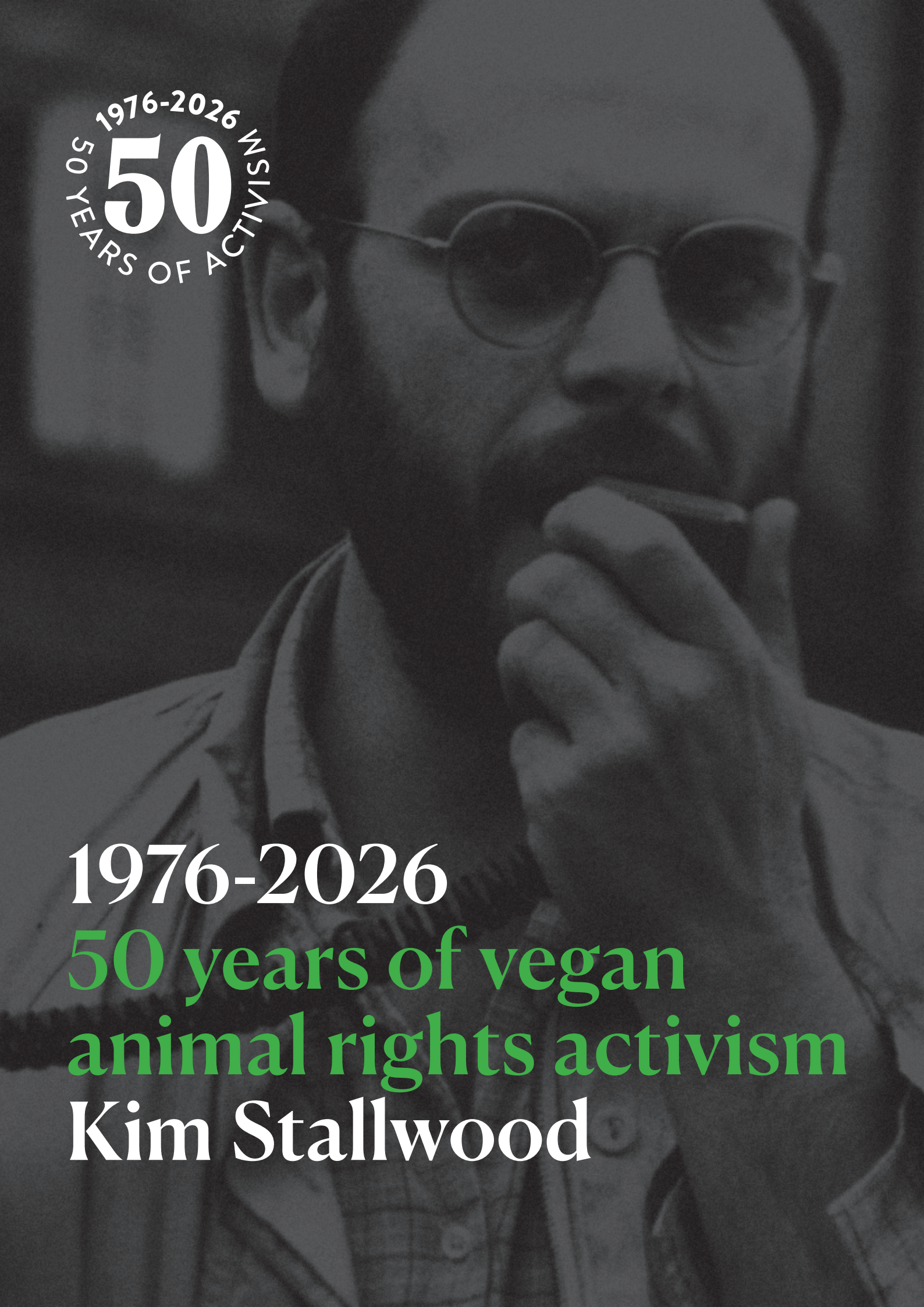
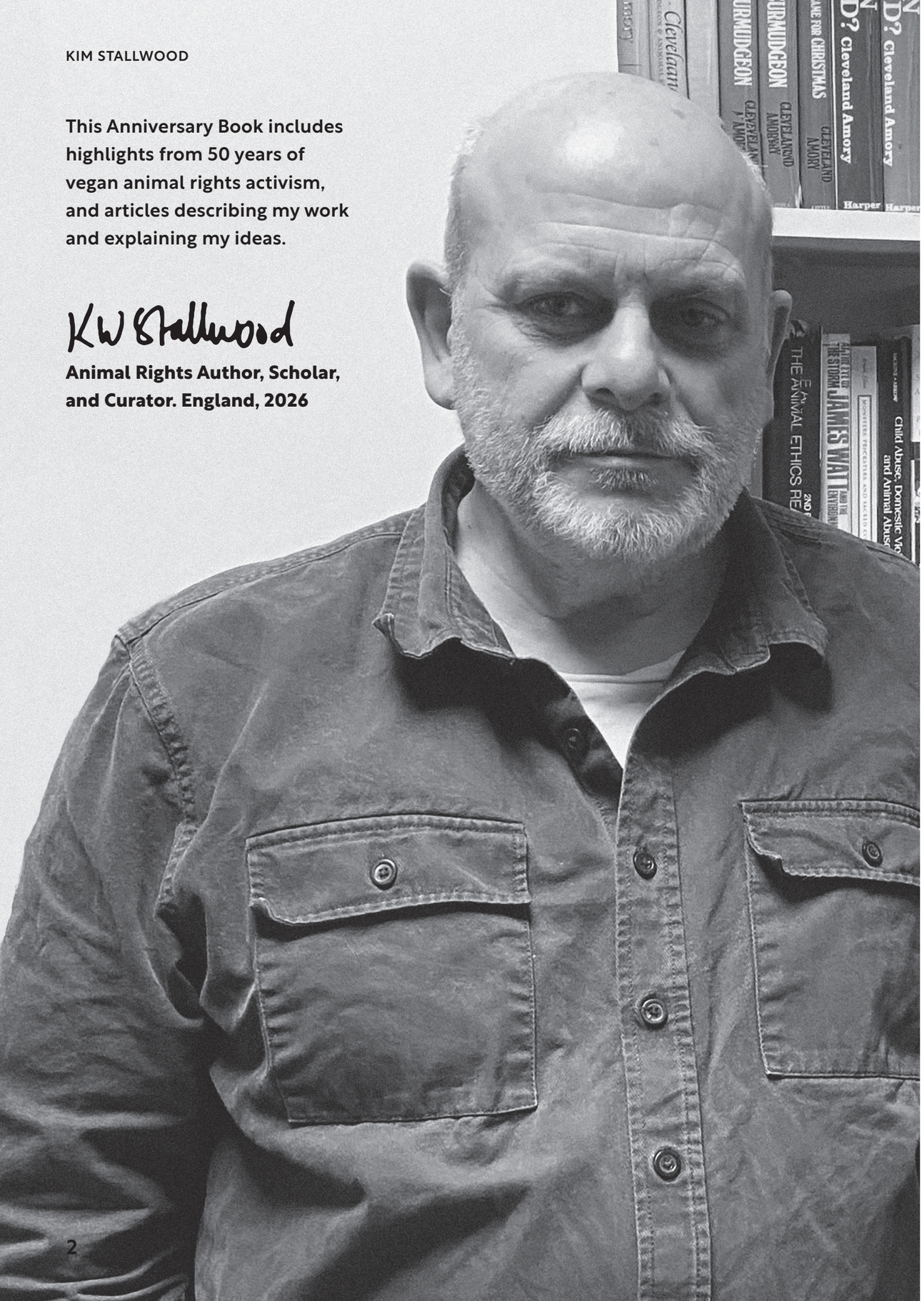


1976-2026
50 years of vegan animal rights activism

Kim Stallwood

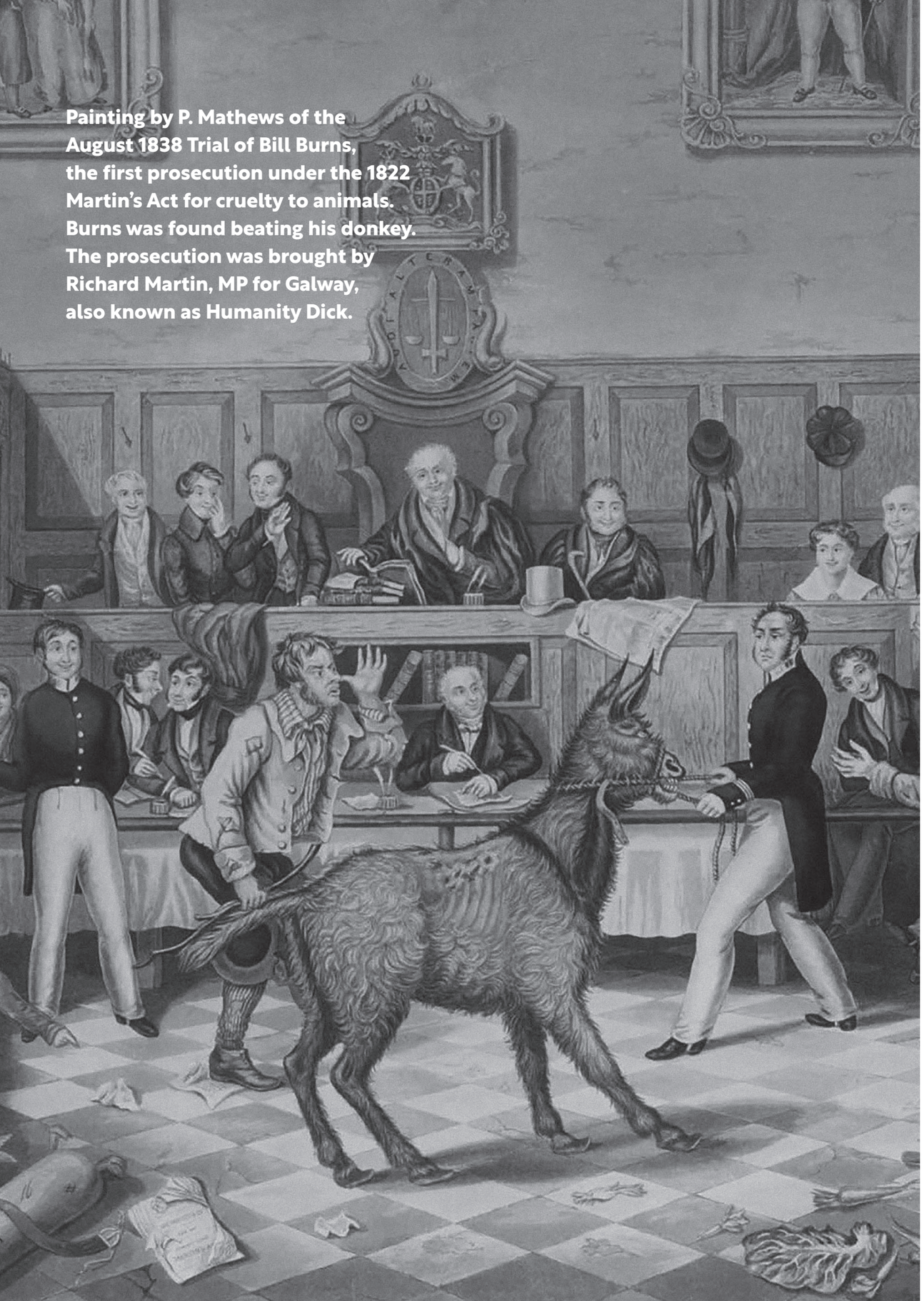


This Anniversary Book includes highlights from 50 years of vegan animal rights activism, and articles describing my work and explaining my ideas.

KW Stallwood

Animal Rights Author, Scholar, and Curator. England, 2026

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Painting by P. Mathews of the August 1838 Trial of Bill Burns, the first prosecution under the 1822 Martin's Act for cruelty to animals. Burns was found beating his donkey. The prosecution was brought by Richard Martin, MP for Galway, also known as Humanity Dick.

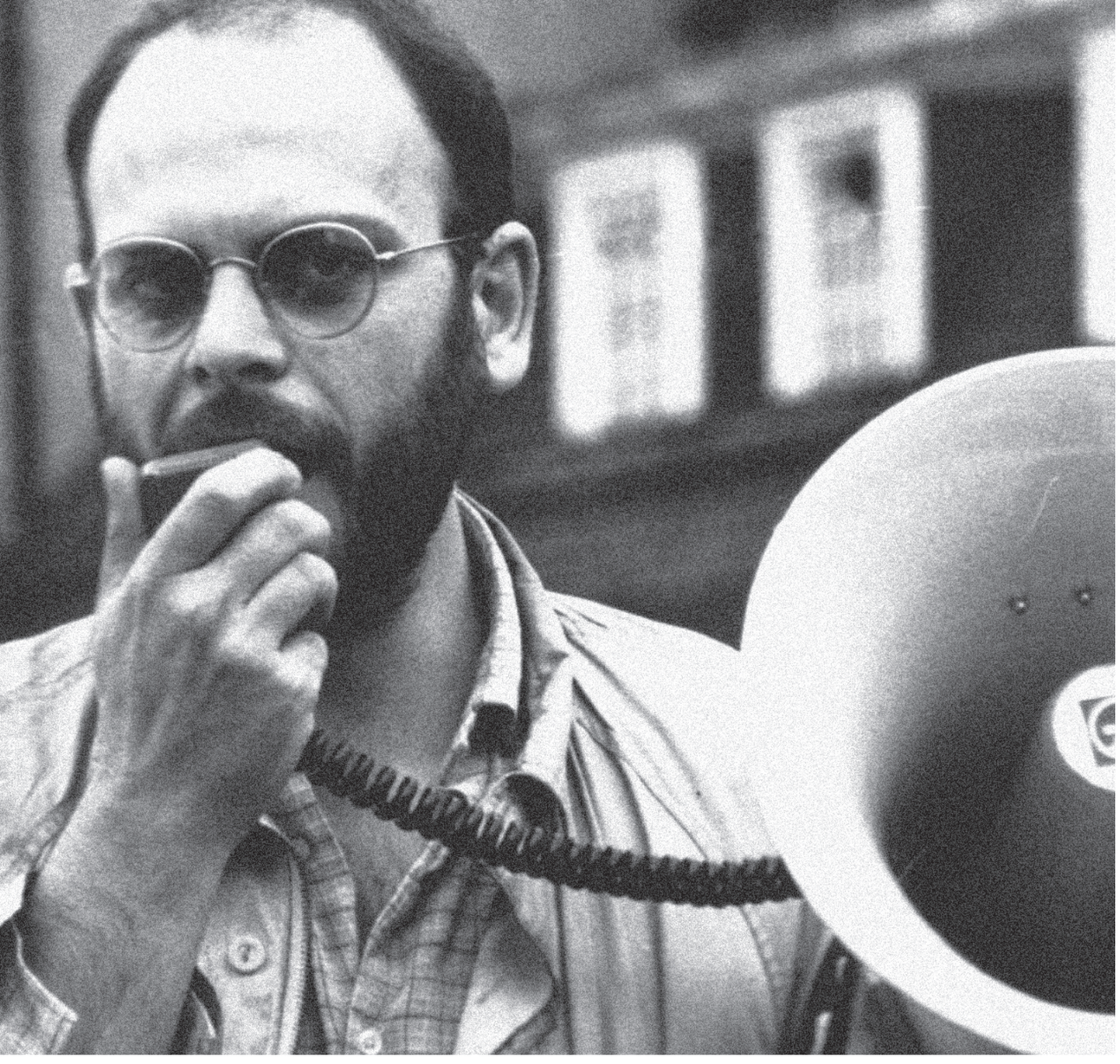
Reflecting on 50 years of vegan animal rights activism, I can't help but think about the animals whose lives I didn't help, and who continue to suffer and die for no other purpose than to produce products and services for human consumption.

I take some solace in knowing that, as a vegan for 50 years, I will not have consumed the lives of 18,250 animals, according to the Vegan Calculator website,

I will have also saved 75,992,105 litres of water, 331,122 kilograms of grain, 165,561 kilograms of Co2, and 50,864 square metres of forest.

It's a privilege to have played a prominent role in the international development of the contemporary animal rights movement. But there's so much left to do. So many animals' lives to save. So many minds to change. And so many hearts to open.

For however many years I have yet to live, my commitment to animal rights is steadfast and my role as a loud and proud vegan will prevail.



Introduction
A Life Dedicated to Animal Rights

Fifty years ago, I was a student working the summer in a chicken slaughterhouse. Three years later in 1976, I was a vegan working for Compassion In World Farming and its campaigns against imprisoning egg-laying hens in cages and confining pigs in stalls too narrow for them to turn around.

My life is dedicated to animal rights, working as an author, curator, and scholar. I have fifty years of personal commitment as a vegan and professional experience in leadership positions as a full-time employee, volunteer, board member, and independent consultant with some of the world's foremost animal rights organizations.

As a curator preserving the history of animal rights, The British Library acquired the Kim Stallwood Archive in 2020. The Zurich-based animal law organisation Tier im Recht established the Kim Stallwood Collection in 2022. I am currently writing a book about Topsy, the female Asian elephant electrocuted to death on Coney Island, New York, in 1903. My first book, Growl: Life Lessons, Hard Truths, and Bold Strategies from an Animal Advocate (Lantern) was published in 2014 with a foreword by Brian May. I have contributed to several academic anthologies about Topsy, animal biography, and movement strategy.

I have sought to work as a bridge between the animal rights movement and the academic field of human-animal studies in the humanities and social sciences. I served on the volunteer board of directors of the US-based Culture & Animals Foundation, founded by animal rights philosopher Tom Regan and his wife, Nancy, in 1985. I co-founded with Ken Shapiro the Animals and Society Institute in 2005 and served as its Co-Executive Director until 2007. I was the volunteer executive director of Minding Animals International (2012 to 2017).
I was the editor-in-chief of The Animals' Agenda magazine (1993-2002) and the first Executive Director of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (1987-1992).

I pay for my animal rights work with consultancy fees from client organisations, royalties from publications, and the generous support of individuals on Patreon and subscribers on Substack. Such support pays for my modest window-less office and the costs primarily involved with preserving animal rights history and writing my book about Topsy.

My commitment is as strong today, if not even more passionate and urgent, than when I became a vegetarian 1974, after working in a chicken slaughterhouse, and a vegan in 1976 when I began my lifelong dedication, personally and professionally, to vegan advocacy and animal rights.

For whatever number of remaining years I may have, I'm dedicated to preserving the history of the animal rights movement and telling the story of Topsy.

How My Animal Ethics Evolved

The 1977 RSPCA Rights of Animals symposium at Trinity College, Cambridge, was when I experienced my eureka moment of animal ethics. Listening to the speakers, I saw how muddled my thinking about animals was.



I hadn't arrived in Cambridge entirely unschooled. I'd read *Animal Liberation* by Peter Singer soon after its publication in 1975. Singer presented his views with admirable clarity. He spoke for me at that time.

At the symposium, Tom Regan shared the arguments that would ultimately become T*he Case for Animal Rights*, published in 1983. Animals had "certain basic moral rights, including in particular the fundamental right to be treated with respect that, as possessors of inherent value, they are due as a matter of strict justice." [p.329]

Consequently, in the 1980s, I identified as an animal rights advocate following the Regan rights view. Singer's utilitarian approach, as I understood it, I saw as animal welfare, not animal rights. Singer no longer spoke for me.

Ecofeminist scholars, including Marti Kheel, Lori Gruen, and Carol J. Adams, made the case for the feminist ethics of care. Regan exposed flaws in Singer's utilitarian argument. But, in turn, ecofeminists highlighted faults with both. Ecofeminism resonated with me. Singer left the door open to the possibility that dominance could be permitted against animals. Regan shut and locked the door, threw away the key. But ecofeminists created a space where all life mattered and ought to be cared for. No one was looked in or out.



We're familiar with the word 'practice' as a verb to mean exercising or training to learn something or engaging in or putting something into use.

What is my Animal Rights Practice?

As a noun, a practice is a way of doing something conventional or customary; or a place of business or work. To practice is also doing the same thing repeatedly to perfect how you do it. All these definitions fit my idea of an animal rights practice. It's a way to describe animal advocacy as a professional calling in which I embrace compassion, truth, nonviolence, and justice.

Practice also means a discipline or engagement with a set of philosophical, spiritual, or moral ideas that lead to a deeper understanding of our role in the world and even our nature as human beings. A yoga practice, for instance, entails commitment to a group of positions that, in combination and over time, lead to greater physical suppleness, breath control, and—most importantly of all—a more profound understanding of the oneness of the universe. This meaning of practice also defines my notion of what it means to be an animal advocate.

An example of my practice is that I have, since I became a vegetarian in 1974, collected campaign materials, books, videos, photographs, and artefacts (e.g., buttons, posters, and display materials) about animal rights and related matters.

The result after five decades is a large and, to my knowledge, unique archive with more than fifteen hundred books. The archive has come to represent my life in animal rights tangibly: not only as a repository of knowledge and insight from which I draw for my work and writing, but as a reminder to me that animal advocacy didn't start when I informed my mother that I was no longer going to eat meat from 1 January, 1974.



Kim with Bambino

Looking back over 50 years of animal activism in the context of the world events and extraordinary times we have all lived through

1976– 2026

1976



Anita Roddick opens the first branch in Brighton, England, of The Body Shop, the retail hair and beauty products chain, not tested on animals. *Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak launched the first Apple Computer Company in California.* **James Callaghan became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom after Harold Wilson's surprise resignation.** *The United States of America celebrates the bicentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.*

I became a vegan after two years as a vegetarian, after working in a chicken slaughterhouse.

I watched The Vegan Society's BBC ground-breaking documentary, "Open Door."

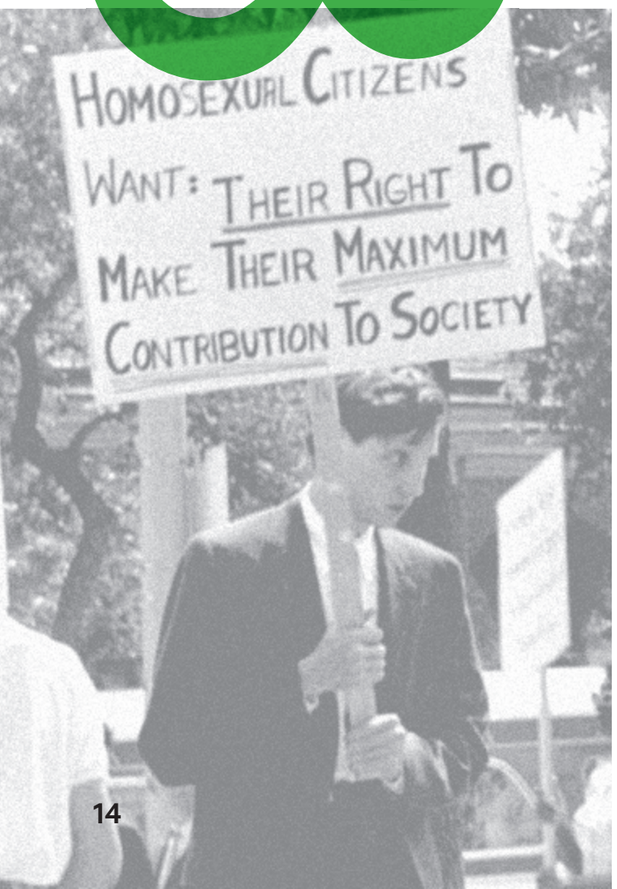
Compassion In World Farming (CIWF) employs me as their national campaign organiser against factory farming.

I attended the ground-breaking Rights of Animals two-day symposium organised by the RSPCA at Trinity College, Cambridge, which brought together academics, theologians, politicians, and activists. At the Festival for Mind and Body in London, I represented CIWF with a life-size model of a calf in a veal crate. **Spain held its first democratic elections after 41 years of Francoist Spain.** *The NASA Space Shuttle, named Enterprise, makes its first test free flight from the back of a Boeing 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft.* **British punk band, Sex Pistols, releases 'Never Mind the Bollocks, Here's the Sex Pistols' on the Virgin Records label, entering at number one in the UK Album Charts despite the refusal by major retailers to stock it.**



1977

1976



US President Jimmy Carter postpones production of the neutron bomb, a weapon that kills people with radiation, but leaves buildings relatively intact. *San Francisco's City Council signs the United States's most comprehensive gay rights bill.* Charlie Chaplin's remains are stolen from Cosier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland. **I co-founded with Fay Funnell and Angela Walder Coordinating Animal Welfare to "bring together the active members of all animal rights societies and work for unity in the movement."** CAW initiates an alternating bimonthly cycle of newsletters and public meetings in London, attracting more than 200 people and such speakers as the philosopher Peter Singer. **I leave CIWF to work at the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection in London.**

I helped with Fay Funnell's anti-fur campaign when she burnt in a bin on London's Oxford Street a mink fur coat that she had bought in a sale from one of the major department stores. Philips demonstrated the compact disc player publicly for the first time. *President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel sign an Egypt–Israel peace treaty at the White House in Washington, DC, with President Jimmy Carter.* Deng Xiaoping arrives in Washington, D.C. for the first visit of a paramount leader of the People's Republic of China to the United States. *Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returns to Tehran, Iran after nearly 15 years of exile.* Pluto moves inside Neptune's orbit for the first time since either was known to science.



1976

1981



After weeks of strikes at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdańsk, Poland, the nationwide independent trade union Solidarity is established, led by Lech Wałęsa. *The World Health Organisation certifies the global eradication of smallpox.* CNN, the first 24-hour news channel, launches (5pm EST).

The leadership of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection fired me from working in the London office. BUAV objected to my volunteer role as a co-founder of Coordinating Animal Welfare. Candidates promoted by CAW were elected to BUAV's governing board, becoming the controlling majority.

Starting in January 1981, I was reinstated as BUAV's campaigns organiser. I visit the United States for the first time, meeting with author Jim Mason and PETA's co-founders, Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco.



A new group of young activists leads the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, engaging me as the campaign's organiser under the leadership of Margaret Manzoni. We rebuild the BUAV, founded in 1898, to complement contemporary times, including relaunching our campaigns with a new professional look grounded in activism.

I visited the United States twice, speaking about BUAV's rebirth at vegetarian and animal rights conferences.

Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer married at St Paul's Cathedral in London, attracting a worldwide television audience of more than 750 million people. *Following the signing of the Algiers Accord, Iran releases the 52 Americans held for 444 days, minutes after Ronald Reagan is sworn in as the 40th President of the United States, ending the Iran hostage crisis.*

1981

1986

Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands begins when Argentine forces land near Stanley, beginning the Falklands War. *The film E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, directed by Steven Spielberg, became the biggest box-office hit for the next 11 years.* **The International Whaling Commission banned commercial whaling in 1985–1986.** *Canada gains full political independence from Britain.*

As the BUAV's campaigns organiser, I work with Lawrence & Beavan, the London-based, pro-animal rights design studio, to launch a new corporate identity, with the theme, "Every Six Seconds an Animal Dies in a British Laboratory." **This new identity is reproduced in newspaper adverts, street billboards, London Underground adverts, leaflets and posters.**



Anticipating a forthcoming general election, I represent BUAV with a coalition of like-minded organisations that launched The Animals' Platform, a manifesto to make animal welfare a mainstream political issue. I joined the National Council of The Vegan Society UK, serving briefly as its chair. **Tom Regan's new book, *The Case for Animal Rights*,** is published, learning about the rights view for animals I began to question my commitment to the utilitarian argument proposed by Peter Singer in his 1975 book, ***Animal Liberation.*** **Margaret Thatcher, is re-elected by a landslide majority.** *The first United States cruise missiles arrive at RAF Greenham Common in the UK amid protests from peace campaigners.* **The first worldwide mobile telephone, the Motorola DynaTAC, enters the market.** *The world's first commercial mobile cellular telephone call is made.*



1987

1986

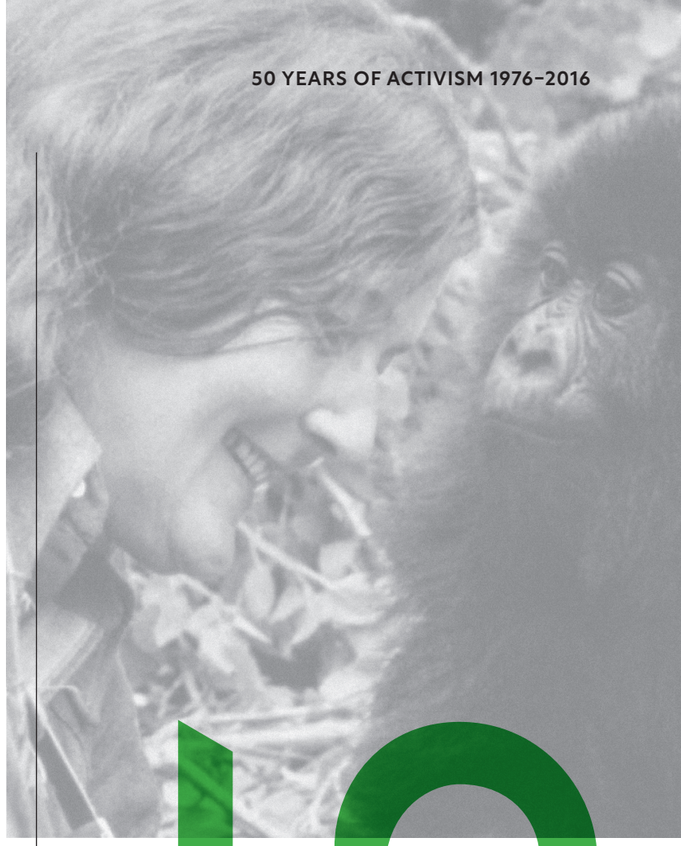
Apple launches the first Macintosh personal computer. **The Provisional IRA attempts to assassinate Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Brighton.** *The world learns of the Ethiopian famine.* **Band Aid records the charity single "Do They Know It's Christmas?"** *The Bhopal chemical spill disaster kills more than 8,000 people.* **As BUAV's campaigns organiser, I co-edit The Liberator newspaper, organise anti-vivisection national demonstrations, lobby Parliament, attend the annual conferences of the major political parties, work with local government on the Animals' Charter, and host visits to London from PETA activists.** The national membership elected me to the RSPCA's National Council. **I also volunteer with The Vegan Society on its national council and as chair.**


ERATOR

Union for the Abolition of Vivisection March/April 1983 30p

on Council Votes
nimal Rights

58 Arrested
at Downing Street



1987

From photographic and documentary evidence obtained from a South East Animal Liberation League raid and given to the BUAV, the Royal College of Surgeons is found guilty of cruelty to monkeys and fined £250 by Bromley magistrates. As BUAV's campaigns organiser, I formed as secretary the Mobilisation for Animals coalition with Animal Aid, National Anti-Vivisection Society, and Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society to oppose the government's proposals to replace the 1876 Cruelty to Animals Act. **South Africa ends its ban on interracial marriages.** *Greenpeace vessel Rainbow Warrior is bombed and sunk.* **Live Aid benefit concerts raise over £50 million for Ethiopia.** *American naturalist Dian Fossey is found violently murdered in Rwanda.*

Four Key values in Animal Rights

I concluded from my animal rights work that it requires an honest examination of our motivations in a never-ending process of engagement with others and a disciplining and opening up of our hearts to our frustrations and joys.

Animals suffered when I set out to save them fifty years ago, and they continue to do so today.

A vegan is not completely innocent of animal exploitation; nor do they automatically become **'a good person',** simply because they shun all animal products. Veganism is not a destination so much as a journey: one that perhaps only highlights how confused and complex our relations with other animals are; one that aims to offer instead of rape, murder, war, cruelty, and environmental devastation, a little kindness, gentleness, and self-sacrifice. I also believe animal rights must be animated by **four key values:**

1. Compassion:
our motivation for helping animals

2. Truth:
our ethical relations with animals

3. Nonviolence:
our value in the relations we have with animals

4. Justice:
our commitment to all animals

Not only are these principles more powerful in combination than singularly, but they're ones that most of us have already accepted for other members of our species (although perhaps only recently, and still only partially). These values, therefore, possess a certain strategic value, since they form a quartet that people who may not share our dedication to reducing animal suffering can understand.

COMPASSION:

Sympathy, empathy, and compassion are siblings in a family of nouns that describe a concern for others. Each one has a different personality. (I dislike including pity as it suggests a condescending attitude of superiority.) Sympathy implies fellow-feeling. Empathy suggests relating to someone and their experiences. Compassion makes a link to someone's experiences, prompting a movement from passive interest to engagement to lessen or end their suffering. This is what makes compassion so special and fundamental.

Calling upon us to act, compassion can be an unsettling, even a revolutionary experience. Once activated, it can leave us vulnerable to the scorn, even violence, of others, or it can inspire them to act with us.

Once experienced or expressed, it can stir us to act for others regardless of species. Compassion encourages selflessness, dissolves prejudice, prevents violence, and promotes peace. It's an altruistic love that opens our eyes, hearts, and minds to the suffering of others and forces us to make positive differences in their lives. Compassion is justice in action.

This may be why so many fear the demands of compassion. That if we allow ourselves to be touched by an animal's suffering that we'll no longer have any way of resisting every animal's misery. We may not be able to go back to the person we were or the life we had. We're no longer that person. Life no longer holds any meaning for us.

To live without compassion is to deny oneself the very possibility of the sort of change—whether personal transformation

or social progress—that could fill the heart and open the mind to still further acts of compassion.

Compassion is one of my four key values in animal rights.

TRUTH:

Imagine standing beneath an oak tree, looking up its canopy to see its central trunk bears larger branches that spread outward, with smaller branches disappearing into the foliage. We see the uniqueness of each bough and every narrower limb. I envision Universal Truth as the oak tree. The large branches represent the world's religions. The smaller limbs are religious sects, philosophical traditions, and still others the different means (e.g., political, economic, and cultural) we try to make sense of the world.

Moving away from the trunk, we leave Universal Truth to enter the localised truth of the world's various belief systems that offer different and incomplete or partial versions of truth. This analogy helps to explain why the origins of the world's religions are so closely identified with specific regions of the globe, as well as the similarities and differences among them.

It's challenging to comprehend or experience Universal Truth. We believe our boughs (our systems and sub-systems of beliefs and ideologies) are the entire truth, and the different ways we see them often cause conflict. This reality is counter-intuitive and harmful and clashes with what it really means to be spiritual and to act compassionately, honestly, and peacefully.

We can expand our insight and replace harmful social and religious prejudices with a compassionate, holistic outlook that includes everyone. We can also dismiss political and philosophical ideologies that similarly reject the inclusion of others in the moral community.

We have the capacity to think, suffer, feel pain, and experience emotions. I conclude that animals must be equally capable, as there's fundamentally no difference among us psychologically, physiologically, and behaviourally.

Truth is one of my four key values in animal rights.

NONVIOLENCE:

To succeed as animal advocates, we can never allow ourselves to become or act like animal abusers and the animal industrial complex. Their reliance on violence as the norm is no excuse for advocates to behave violently. We cannot condone abuse of animal abusers if we condemn that abuse when it's directed towards another group. There can be no double standards.

The integrity of our campaign for moral and legal rights for animals lies not only in our argument, but also in how we make our case. The how and the why are the same. We cannot work for the rights of one while disrespecting those of another.

Indeed, war, riot, sabotage, and other forms of violent action have brought changes within a society. But they have also invariably led to more bloodshed, usually involving the most powerless suffering more while the powerful and their interests are either protected or reinstated. Violence doesn't create new and positive attitudes; instead, it retrenches and embeds repression and the institutions that benefited from it.

I don't believe for a minute that people would continue to live as vegans if their motivation was based on an animal rights movement that lied or in some way sanctioned violence or hostile attitudes to others. Once the moral shock tripped by the outrageous action wore off, disenchantment and resistance would set in. Perhaps this is why some vegetarians and vegans revert to eating meat, eggs, and dairy.

Nonviolence is one of my four key values in animal rights.

JUSTICE:

Injustice is often a consequence of a prejudice based on a feeling of superiority (of gender, sexual orientation, race, or species). It occurs when we're indifferent to the plight of others (whatever their species) and fail to recognise the truth of their circumstances. Injustice can lead to violence, whether physical, verbal, or mental.

Justice is understood by the cultural traditions of societies, and subject to political, moral, economic, and religious values and realities. It must be fought for and continually protected against those who seek to overturn it in favour of their interests.

Claims for justice are challenges to authority. Decisions about justice are made by those in power with control over others. This means that justice is often perverted, delayed and denied, and why the fight for justice is political, moral, and legal.

Justice is never won easily. Authority would prefer to ignore injustice rather than confront it. Power and control are never relinquished readily. The case must be made. The work done. People and their elected representatives need to be convinced. Over many years, if not generations, and through several stages.

Our society rarely thinks of animals in terms of justice. We establish anti-cruelty statutes and laws and regulations encourage humane attitudes and behaviour. In a handful of cases, prohibitions specifically outlaw cruel acts against certain species or in very particular ways. Notwithstanding these hard-won victories, our power and control over animals are absolute.

Justice has three aspects:

1.Equality:
– to ensure that the law recognises animals, like humans, as sentient beings to receive their due legal protection

2.Fairness:
– to require the law to protect animals, appropriate to their needs, as subjects of a life with inherent rights

3.Duty:
– to insist that individuals and society respect and enforce justice for animals

1986

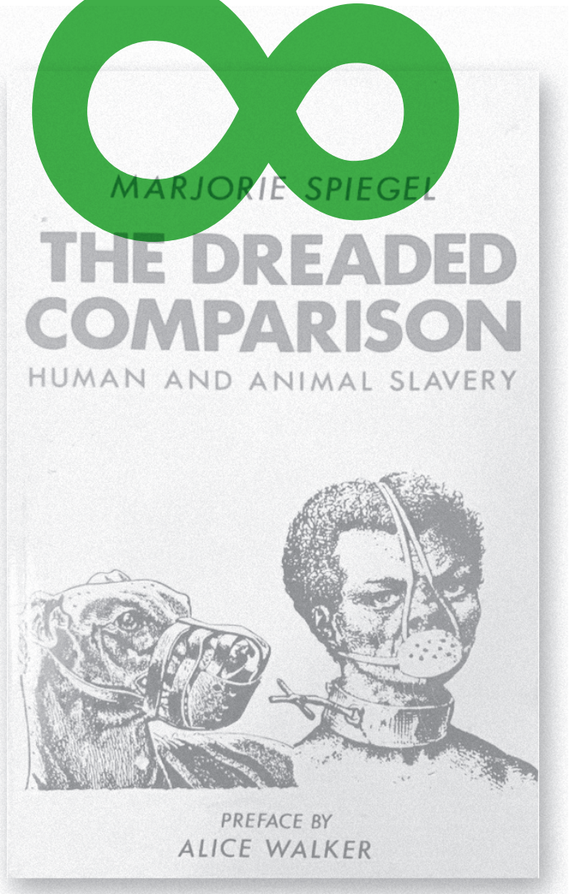


The United Kingdom and France announce construction of the Channel Tunnel. *The Space Shuttle Challenger disintegrates 73 seconds after launch from the United States.* The Chernobyl nuclear disaster near Pripyat, (now Ukraine) kills at least 4,000 people. **The British Government passes the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, ignoring the Mobilisation for Animals' demands for bans on certain procedures. However, years later, several of MFA's objectives have been accomplished, including a ban on cosmetics testing. BUAV promotes me as the Acting General Secretary.** I visit the United States to meet with PETA and its co-founders, Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco. **I leave BUAV at the end of 1986, after eight turbulent but productive years.**

PETA's co-founders, Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco, engaged me as their first executive director. This begins a 20-year period working with animal rights projects in the United States. **My first year at PETA is dedicated to deeply familiarising myself with the organisation before I initiate a series of measures that transform the organisation.** Terry Waite, the special envoy of the Archbishop of Canterbury in Lebanon, is kidnapped in Beirut. *The Zeebrugge disaster kills 193 people.* AZT is approved for use in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. In The United Kingdom, *Margaret Thatcher is re-elected for a third term.* The Great storm of 1987. *Black Monday: Stock market levels fall sharply around the world.* A fire on the London Underground at Kings Cross Station kills 31 people.

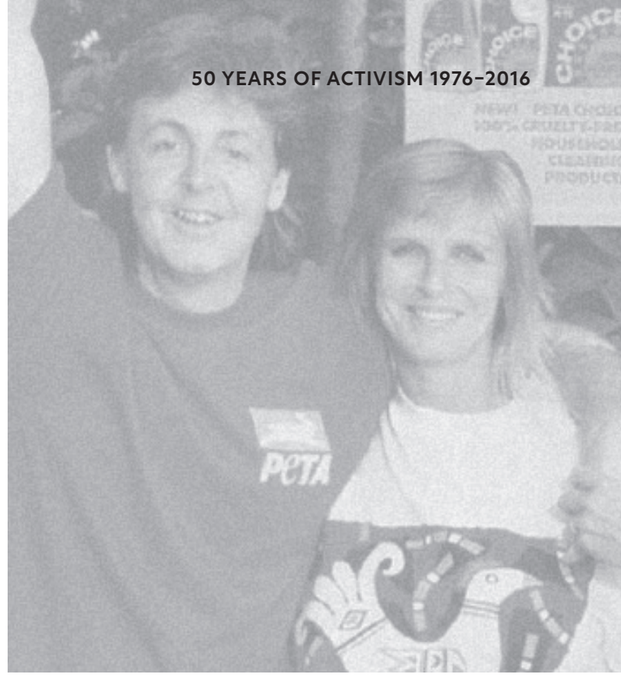


1987



The first McDonald's restaurant in a country run by a Communist Party opens in Belgrade, Serbia. *A ceasefire effectively ended the Iran–Iraq War, with an estimated one million lives lost.* **The first World AIDS Day was held.** *Pan Am Flight 103 was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing a total of 270 people.*

PETA engaged me in 1987 as its first Executive Director, with a membership of 200,000, a staff of 40, and an annual budget of $4 million. I work with the London-based design studio, Lawrence & Beavan, to implement a new corporate identity for PETA based on its lowercase logo that it continues to use. **I read The Dreaded Comparison: Human and Animal Slavery by Marjorie Spiegel, published by Heretic Books and New Society Publishers in 1988.**

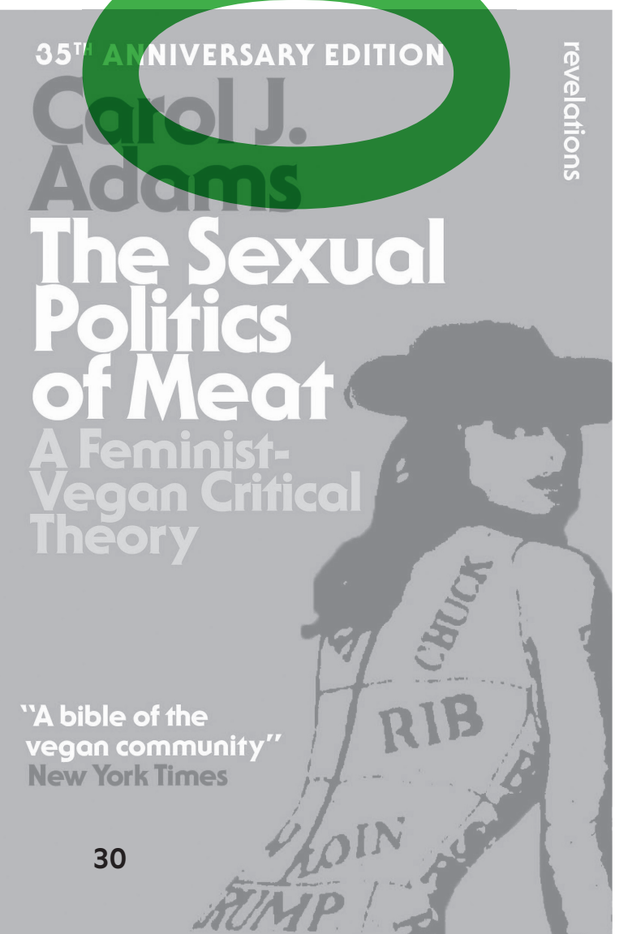


During my five years (1987-1992) with PETA as its first Executive Director, I worked closely with the London-based design studio, Lawrence & Beavan, and my colleague, Martha Powers, to launch the PETA Catalogue for Cruelty-Free Living, a 32-page showcase featuring Paul and Linda McCartney on the front cover. Annual gross income from merchandise sales increased from $225,000 with a net loss of $50,000 to $1.35 million with net income of $240,000 in a 1–2-year period. **Iran issued a fatwa calling for the death of Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie.** *The Exxon Valdez spilt 240,000 barrels of oil after running aground in Alaska's Prince William Sound.* **More than 1,000,000 Chinese protesters marched through Beijing.**

1988

1989

The Berlin Wall was torn down, thereby signalling the end of the Cold War. *Margaret Thatcher resigned after 11 years in office and was replaced by John Major.* Channel Tunnel workers from the United Kingdom and France meet 40 metres beneath the English Channel, the first land connection between the UK and the European mainland in about 8,000 years. **I read *The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory* by Carol J Adams, published that year by Continuum.** Carol's book and subsequent conversations with her significantly influence my understanding of animal ethics. **I no longer subscribe to Peter Singer's utilitarian approach but remain sympathetic to Tom Regan's natural rights view.** I increasingly identify myself primarily as an ecofeminist.

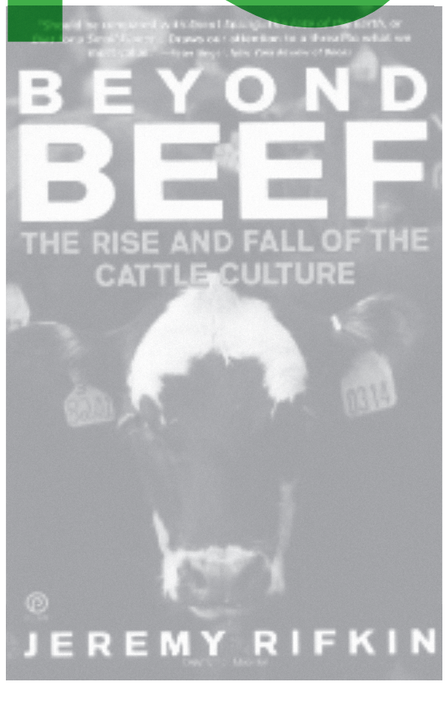


As I leave in February 1992, this year is my final full year at PETA as its first Executive Director. I'm proud of my role in transforming PETA from a Washington, DC, grassroots group with national presence to an internationally respected and innovative organisation. This is a five-year period of rapid organisational growth. I needed to direct the office relocation twice. Four Los Angeles police officers were indicted for beating Rodney King after a video of the incident became public. None of the police officers was found guilty. *After 16 years in prison, the "Birmingham Six" were freed when a court determined that the police fabricated evidence.* The International Olympic Committee readmits South Africa to the Olympics.



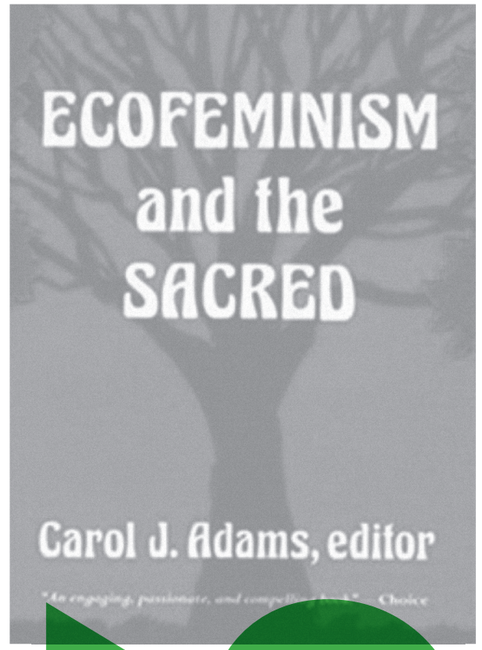
1991

1992



Russian President Boris Yeltsin and US President George H. W. Bush declared the Cold War was over. *The Ruby Jubilee commemorated 40 years since the accession of Elizabeth II.* **The Maastricht Treaty was signed, founding the European Union.** *White South Africans voted in favour of political reforms ending apartheid.* **1992 was a difficult year. I was physically and mentally exhausted from five years as PETA's first executive director.** I began a consulting practice with the Vegetarian Resource Group as my first client. With its co-founders, I reviewed VRG and made suggestions to improve its programs and activities. **I read *Beyond Beef: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture* by Jeremy Rifkin and *Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions of American Feminism* by Josephine Donovan, which were published in 1992.**

I continue as an independent consultant with the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, Citizens to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation, and the New England Anti-Vivisection Society as clients. **I conducted a strategic review to produce a Program Plan of Action.** I advised founder Dr Neal Barnard to reposition PCRM to a health advocacy think tank, challenging assumptions of vivisection-based health care. **I read *Ecofeminism and the Sacred*, edited by Carol J Adams.** **Václav Havel elected President of the Czech Republic.** *Robert Thompson and Jon Venables abduct and murder two-year-old James Bulger from the New Strand Shopping Centre in Bootle, Merseyside, England.* **A van bomb explodes under the North Tower of the World Trade Center.** *Jurassic Park was released in cinemas in the United States.*



1993

1976



Tyke, a female African bush elephant, injured her groomer and killed her trainer at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, before police officers shot her 87 times. *Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black president*. NFL star O. J. Simpson fled from police in a white Ford Bronco. *Jeff Bezos founded Amazon.* The sitcom Friends premiered on NBC on September 22, 1994. **I am appointed Executive Director of The Animal Rights Network, and Editor in Chief of their magazine, The Animals' Agenda.** My first edition was in late 1993, with 1994 being my first full year of publication. I closed my consultation practice in 1994 to focus on The Animals' Agenda. **My involvement began with the magazine in the late 1970s; my animal rights work had turned full circle.**

I edited and published six issues of The Animals' Agenda in 1995. **As animal activists planned strategies for this year's tenth annual Fur-Free Friday, a significant question was posed: How many more such Fridays will pass before victory in the campaign against fur?** The UK's oldest investment banking firm, Barings Bank, collapsed after securities broker Nick Leeson lost $1.4 billion speculating on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. *Steve Fossett becomes the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean in a balloon.* Doomsday cult Aum Shinrikyo carried out the Tokyo subway sarin attack. Microsoft released Windows 95 to the public. *Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated.* General Radovan Karadžić charged with genocide during the Bosnian War.



1995

Laws Reflect Society's Values

Every law throughout the world reflects human dominance over animals.



The impact of laws relating to animals varies depending upon various factors, including the species addressed, the robustness of the enforcement, and exemptions excluding animals from the law's protection.

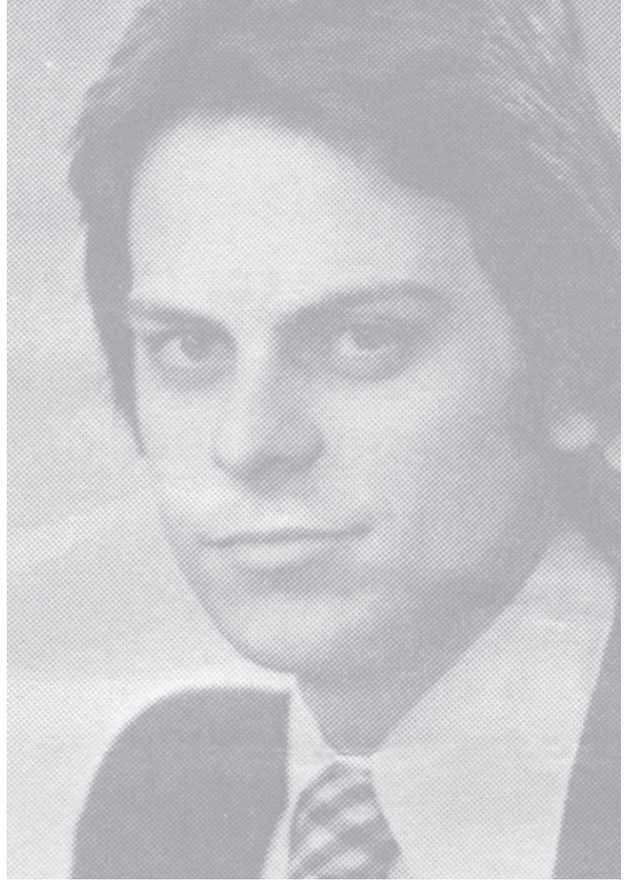
Some laws outlaw particular animal abuse. For example, the Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act 2000 banned raising animals for their fur in England and Wales in 2003. The European Union banned leghold traps in 1991, sow stalls in 2001, and the marketing and testing of animals for cosmetics in 2013.

But in the United States, the federal Animal Welfare Act regulating animals in research excludes the species most used (rats, mice, and birds), and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act exempts chickens, the species most killed for food.

This patchwork approach results in anomalies.

Why should cats living in our homes receive greater legal protections than those in research laboratories? The laws relating to cats should be the same everywhere.

A fundamental shift in animal law is overdue. From a culture of laws licensing how humans can abuse animals, we need a new wave of legislation recognising animals as having moral and legal rights. Not as human property. The industries, institutions, and governments profiting from institutionalised, commercial exploitation of animals can no longer be the judge and jury over animals and the law.



Have you had your PTM?

Personal transformative moments (PTM) are compelling personal stories about how someone becomes a vegan animal activist.

They're prompted by such experiences as reading a book, watching a film, speaking with a friend, witnessing animal cruelty, experiencing a profound relationship with a companion animal and so on. Someone born or raised as vegan from an early age will not experience PTM, but there will be times when they realise they're different from everyone else.

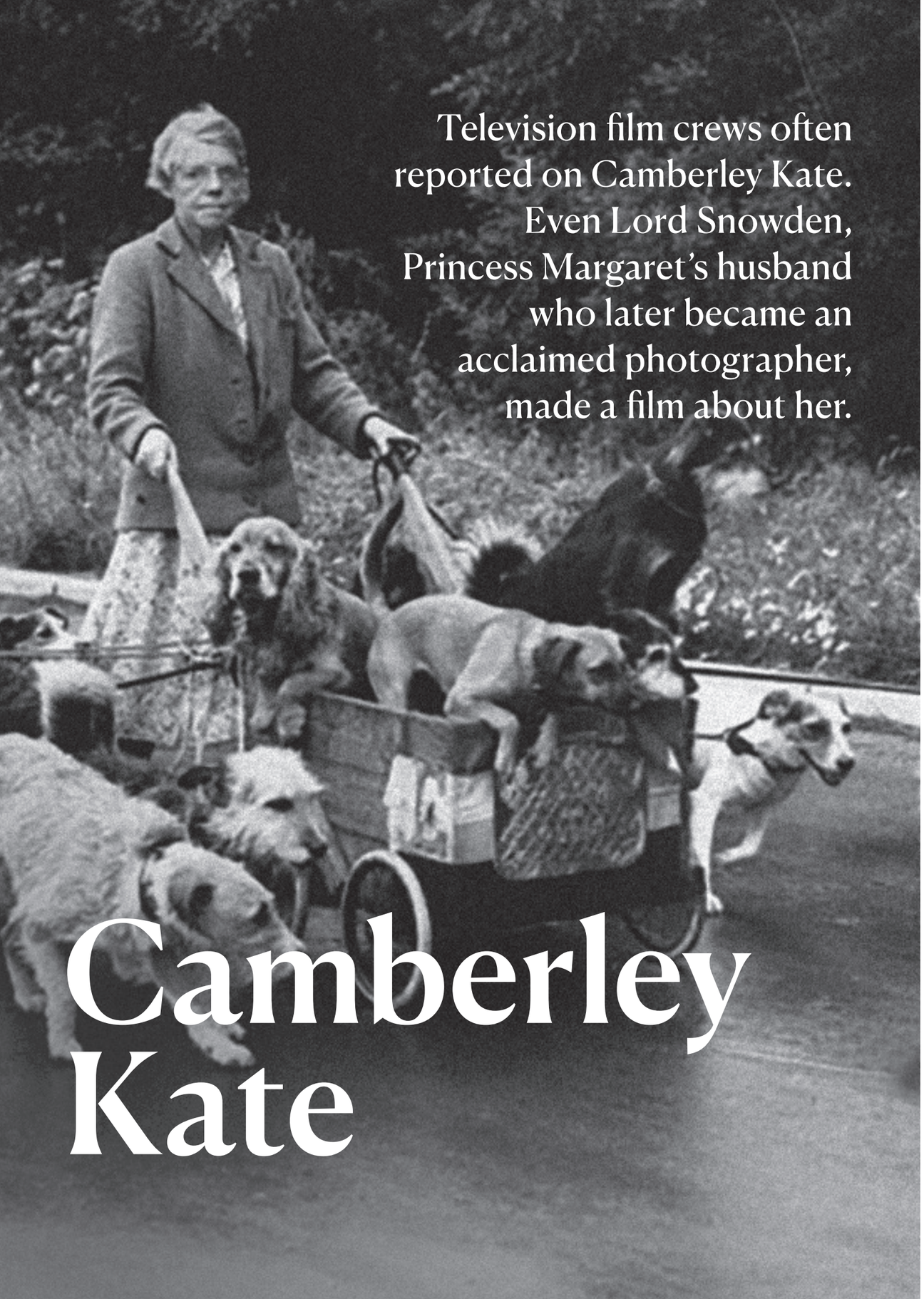
When I was a student at a college in London learning how to run hotels and restaurants, I worked one summer in a chicken slaughterhouse. This was my PTM, leading me to become a vegetarian in 1974 and a vegan two years later.

Philosopher Tom Regan describes in *Empty Cages* three types of animal advocates. (Regan 2004: 21-28)

The Damascan, who has a startling revelation. The Muddler, who struggles with the challenge of animal rights throughout their life. The Davincian, who intuitively understood all along. Psychologist Ken Shapiro characterises animal advocates as Caring Sleuths, who discover, seek and embrace the suffering of animals.

These personality types define who animal activists are and how they arrive from different places. They explain why we're a diverse group of people who don't always agree.

Every PTM is unique, but they share the revealing experience of what was previously hidden from view, or trained not to see, become visible for what it is: animal cruelty and exploitation. Meat is no longer delicious steak but charred remains of dead animal body parts.



Television film crews often reported on Camberley Kate. Even Lord Snowden, Princess Margaret's husband who later became an acclaimed photographer, made a film about her.

Camberley Kate

Although her name was Kate Ward, everyone knew her as Camberley Kate. She was born in Middlesbrough, northeast England, in 1895. As both her parents died before she was 10, she was raised by a strictly religious aunt in what she described as an atmosphere of disapproval. At 19 she left home to go into domestic service in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Kate moved to Camberley possibly to work in service at the RMA Sandhurst during the Second World War. She bought a small Victorian working-class cottage on the London Road in nearby York Town for £600. Kate's first experience with rescuing a dog was in 1943. She took home a lame greyhound she found sitting on the doorstep of the local veterinarian's office. The dog was to be euthanized.

For the remainder of her life, she rescued and cared for hundreds of stray dogs, pushing the wooden green cart to and from her modest home to Camberley's town centre, a round trip of some five miles. The local police even recommended a route so that she and her canine entourage could leave and arrive home safely.

No dog was ever turned away. As Kate's activities became known, people increasingly left dogs on her doorstep, sometimes in shopping bags or tied to her front doorknob. Some dogs were left with her just for a week, but no one returned to claim them. Other people left their dogs with her permanently because they could no longer look after them. The police also brought her dogs. Mysteriously and miraculously, some dogs found their way to her. Kate's meagre state pension didn't adequately meet the costs of feeding and caring for so many dogs. She began to receive donations as she became known.

Television film crews often reported on Camberley Kate. Even Lord Snowden, Princess Margaret's husband who later became an acclaimed photographer, made a film about her. Although she became famous, her dogs always came first. Kate also spoke of a gentleman who helped to pay her expenses. She deposited into a trust any unused donations as she did not want to personally benefit from the dogs in her care. A local veterinarian, Geoffrey Craddock, regularly visited Kate from 1954 until her death in 1979 aged 84.

I was born in a council house and raised in Camberley, Surrey. My parents always let me and my sister, Wendy, watch Camberley Kate and her dogs make their way against the one-way traffic along the High Street.

I don't recall them saying very much about her. But she made an enduring impression. Why would someone devote their life to others, particularly dogs, I wondered. We were always encouraged to be kind to animals. Mother wanted to work with animals but never had the opportunity. Father brought home Tinkerbell, a small grey kitten quite soon after I was born. Her passing was my first exposure to life's play with death.

All these years later, Camberley Kate shows how one person makes a difference. Let's all be like her in our own way.

1996

Dolly the sheep, the first mammal to be successfully cloned from an adult cell, is born. *France undertook its last nuclear weapons test.* After a 3-year-old boy fell into the deep gorilla enclosure at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, Binti Jua, a female lowland gorilla, sat with the injured boy until his rescue. *Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales, are formally divorced at the High Court of Justice in London.* The Spice Girls release their debut single, "Wannabe," launching global "Girl Power".

I edited and published five issues of The Animals' Agenda in 1996. Cover features included how the media portrays animals, the slaughter of Yellowstone bison, the Animal Rights Handbook 1996, an assessment of the current view of animal research in America, and the truth behind commercial "pet" food.



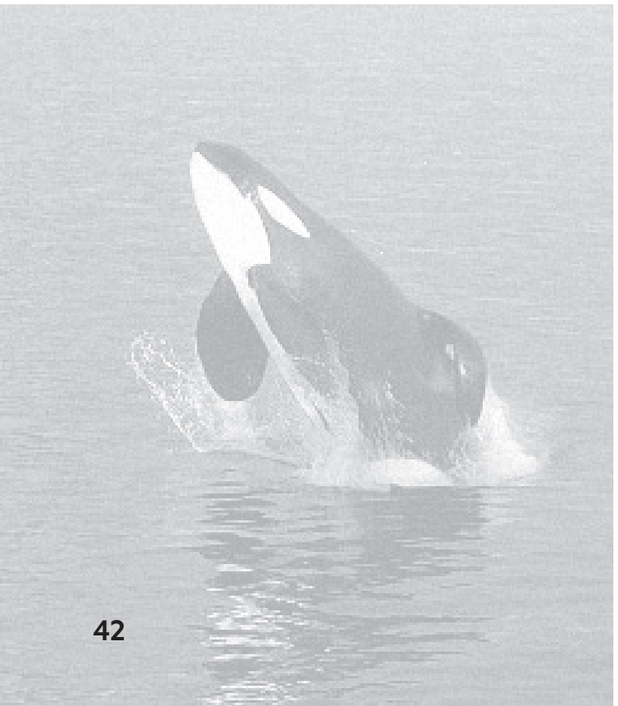
1997

I edited and published six issues of The Animals' Agenda in 1997. Their cover features included releasing mink farmed for their fur from cages, "Empower for Change" an annual animal rights handbook, ending the abuse of animal attractions, the massacre of migratory birds, the Canadian annual seal slaughter. *Tony Blair became Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.* US President Bill Clinton banned federal funding for any research on human cloning. The United Kingdom handed sovereignty of Hong Kong, to the People's Republic of China. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, *by J. K. Rowling is published in an edition of 500 copies.* Diana, Princess of Wales, dies following a high-speed car crash in Paris, causing worldwide grief.



1998

The Good Friday Agreement is signed at Castle Buildings, Stormont. **Google, Inc. was founded in Menlo Park, California.** *Keiko, the orca captured in 1979, was released back into the wild off the coast of Iceland.* **Nicholas II of Russia and his family were buried in Saint Petersburg.** I edit and published six issues of The Animals' Agenda. Cover features include the US government's slaughter of wild horses. **"Fifty million years ago, a small dog-like creature called Echippus evolved on the North American continent. After disappearing into Asia and Africa, as well as into the evolved form of Equus, 17 horses returned to our soil with the Spanish in the early 1500s. From their hands, they escaped onto the American canvas. The horse had come home, but the welcome has only proved deadly".**



I edited and published six issues of The Animals' Agenda in 1999. Their cover features included an interview with Paul McCartney, trophy hunting, the activist Rod Coronado, prairie dogs, white-tailed deer, and fox hunting in the US. "In the United States the 'sport' of fox hunting has been going on for more than 250 years. However, most Americans either view fox hunting as a benign social activity or are completely unaware that the practice even exists. Tally-ho, Dude!"

Boris Yeltsin resigned as president of Russia, Vladimir Putin becomes acting president. *British TV presenter Jill Dando was shot dead on the doorstep of her home in London.* **The Columbine High School massacre occurred in Littleton, Colorado, killing 13 students and 1 teacher.**



1999

2000

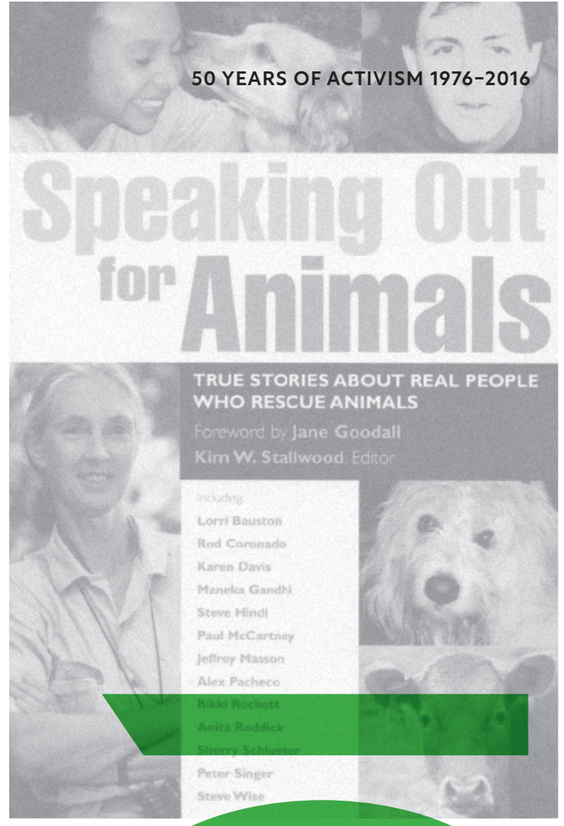
Vladimir Putin elected President of Russia. *Microsoft releases Windows 2000.* **India's population reaches 1 billion. The US Supreme Court narrowly certifies George W. Bush as the winner of the 2000 US presidential election.** *The Peanuts comic strip is published for the last time after 50 years.*

I conducted oral history interviews with Roger Caras, author and ASPCA president; Michael W. Fox, author, veterinarian, and vice-president of bioethics at The HSUS; and John Hoyt, president of The HSUS. I published six issues of The Animals' Agenda magazine, with cover features on animal research, the decline of dog racing, pit bulls, political action for animals, the business of brainwashing , and the links between animal dealers and TV wildlife experts.



Apple Inc. launches iTunes, Wikipedia is launched. *The Human Genome Project publishes the first draft of its human genome sequence.* **The foot-and-mouth outbreak begins in the UK.** *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change releases its Third Assessment Report.* **2,977 victims die in the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.** *The Provisional Irish Republican Army begins disarmament.*

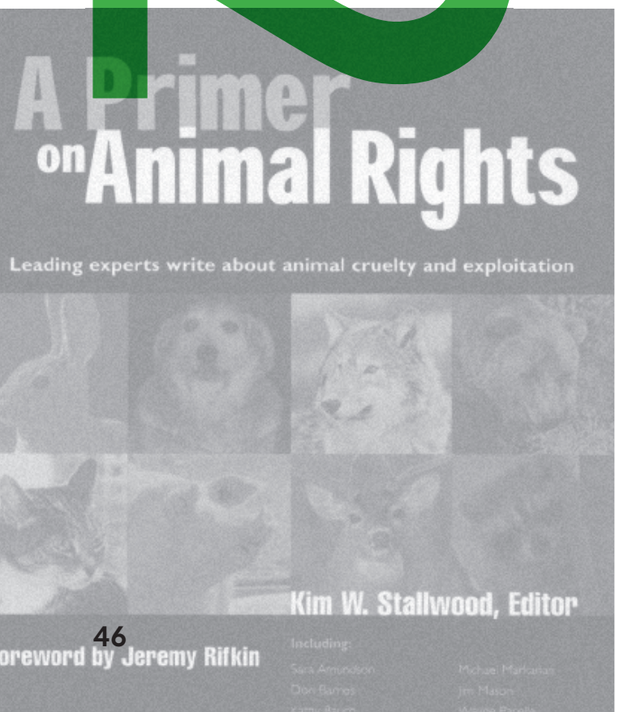
I edited *Speaking Out for Animals: True Stories About Real People Who Rescue Animals* (Lantern Books), **including Paul McCartney, Maneka Gandhi, Peter Singer, Karen Davis, and a foreword by Jane Goodall.** In Baltimore, I founded the Canton Community Association, a neighbourhood residents' association, which included among our initial projects the first enclosed city dog park.



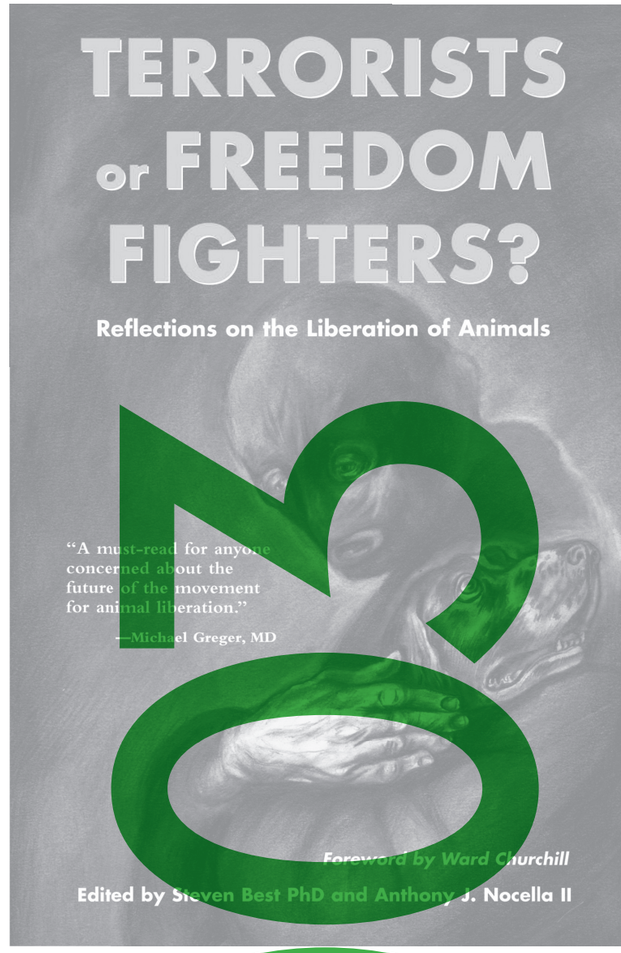
2000

2002

US President George W. Bush defines an axis of evil consisting of Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. *The trial of Slobodan Milošević opens at the International Criminal Tribunal.* **The Euro is introduced as official physical currency in the Eurozone countries.** *A Boston Globe investigation of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy leads to the criminal prosecutions of five Roman Catholic priests. I edited* ***A Primer on Animal Rights: Leading Experts Write About Animal Cruelty and Exploitation, (Lantern Books),*** *an anthology of articles published in The Animals' Agenda magazine that included* **Gene Bauston, Camilla H. Fox, Jill Robinson, and Jim Mason,** *and foreword by* **Jeremy Rifkin.** *I reinvent* ***The Animals' Agenda*** *magazine and its not-for-profit publisher,* ***Animal Rights Network,*** *into the* ***Institute for Animals and Society.***



'A Personal Overview of Direct Action in the United Kingdom and the United States', is published in ***Terrorists or Freedom Fighters? – Reflections on the Liberation of Animals*** edited by Steven Best and Anthony J. Nocella **(Lantern Books).** I work as a consultant and co-instructor with the **Community College of Baltimore County** to create and teach two three-credit classes on campus and online in **'Animals and Society'.** **Dolly the sheep, the clone of a mammal, dies.** *The Iraq War begins.* **The Human Genome Project is completed.** *The release of the novel* **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** *is a worldwide cultural event, boosting literacy and the publishing industry.* **Concorde makes its last commercial flight.**



2016

KIM STALLWOOD

Who was Topsy?

The story begins in Southeast Asia in 1875 with the capture of a baby female elephant.

Separated from her natural family, she is abducted and forced to make the months-long land and sea journey to Hamburg, Germany, where Carl Hagenbeck, then the world's leading wild animal dealer, is based. Hagenbeck sells the baby elephant to circus impresario Adam Forepaugh in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is shipped as cargo to the United States to perform in the Forepaugh Circus.

The baby elephant's quick growth most likely inspires her name, Topsy. In Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Miss Ophelia asks an enslaved young girl named Topsy,

'Do you know who made you?'
'Nobody, as I knows on,' the girl replies.
'I 'spect I grow'd. Don't think nobody never made me.'

It is not unreasonable to speculate that the book's popularity and her 'I 'spect I grow'd' comeback inspired the figure of speech to 'grow like Topsy.'

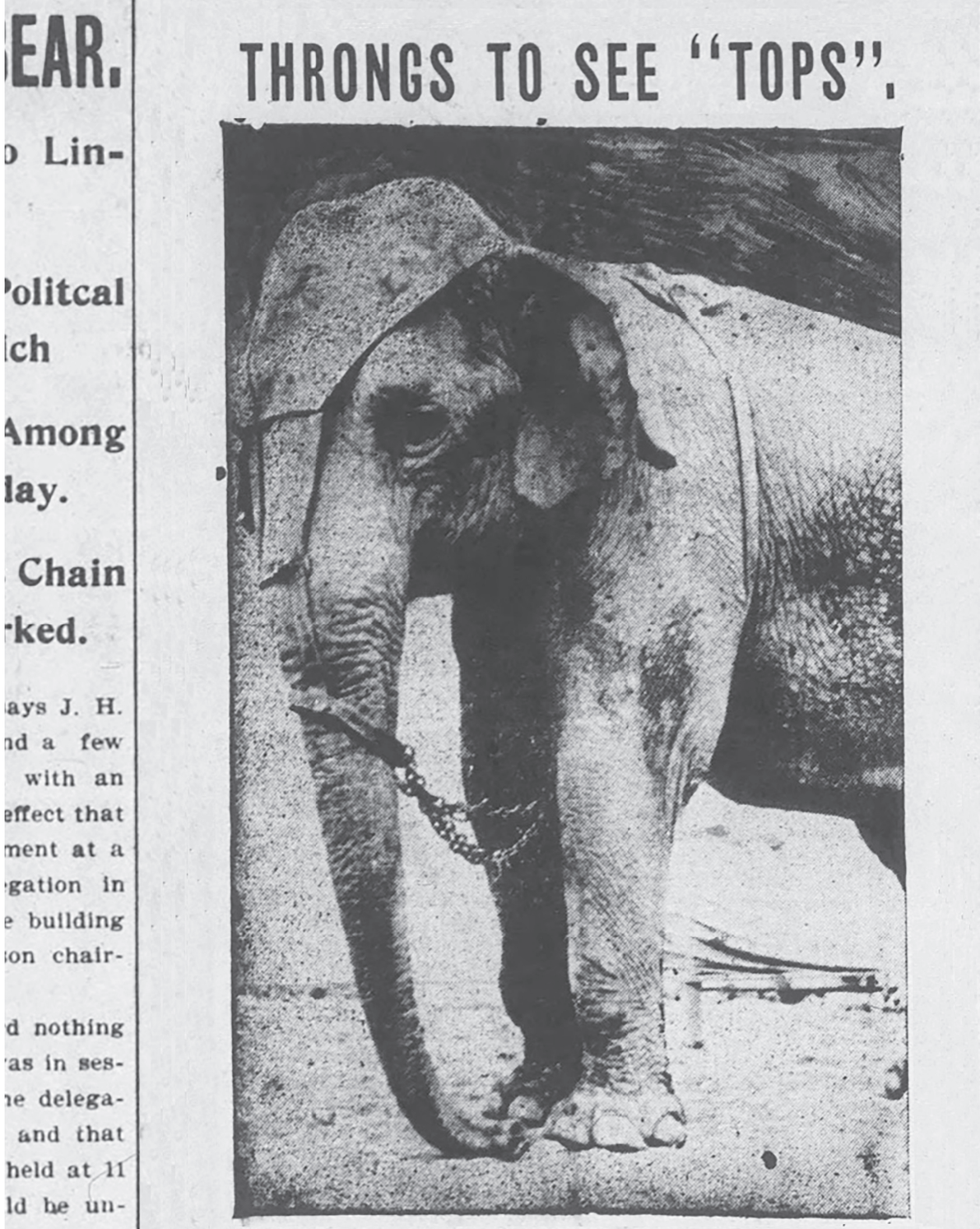
Topsy the elephant never experienced a natural life in the jungle, where her mother would have raised her in a matriarchal society among her family of elephants. Instead, she grew up performing in the circus ring and travelling across the United States. But two incidents in 1902, when she killed one man and attacked another, set in motion the sequence of events that led to her premature and violent death.

Before an audience of more than 1,000 paying spectators, journalists, and photographers at Luna Park on Coney Island, New York, on Sunday, January 4, 1903, Topsy was poisoned with carrots laced with 460 grains of potassium cyanide and then electrocuted with 6,600 volts of electricity for 10 seconds. According to some newspaper reports, she was also hanged for 10 minutes. Veterinarians declared her dead.

The Edison Manufacturing Company filmed the electrocution. The film, 'Electrocuting an Elephant', has been viewed on YouTube more than 1.7 million times, including by me. After I watched her electrocution, I vowed to write about her so that her miserable life and cruel death were not in vain.

So why kill an elephant? Why film her electrocution? What would have happened to Topsy if she were alive today?

These are the questions I will answer in my book about Topsy.

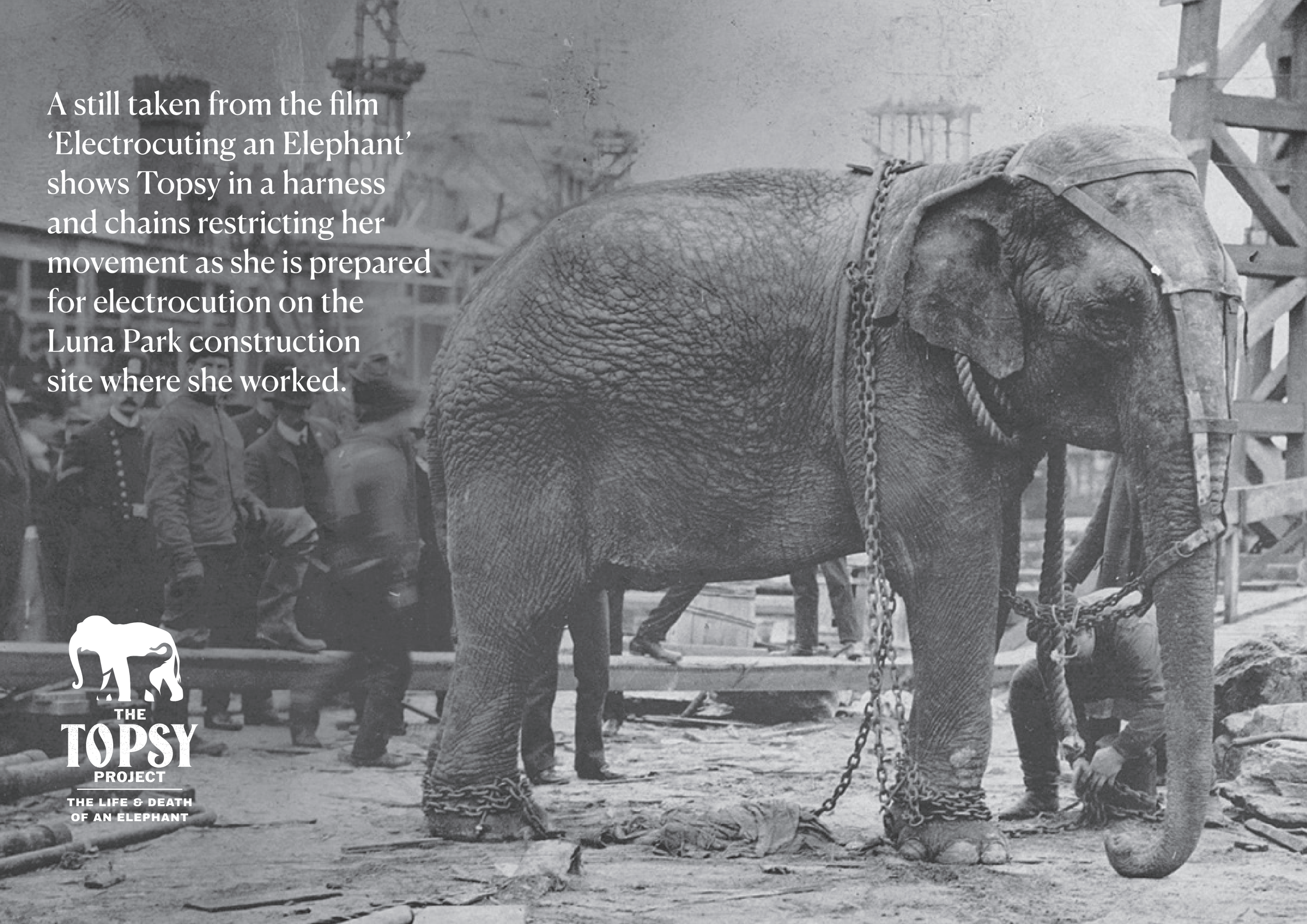


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THRONGS TO SEE "TOPS".

The newspaper space allotted to "Tops" the Forepaugh and Sells elephant who recently killed a man who placed a burning cigar stump in his extended trunk has brought him into prominence almost parallelling that of the lamented Jumbo. Thousands throng daily to see the man killing elephant. Strange to say, although the crowds always keep a respectable distance from "the elephant who did," "Tops" is quite an object of admiration since his wicked display of temper. The consensus of opinion seem to be that it served his unfortunate tormentor right.

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A still taken from the film ‘Electrocuting an Elephant’ shows Topsy in a harness and chains restricting her movement as she is prepared for electrocution on the Luna Park construction site where she worked.

THE TOPSY PROJECT

THE LIFE & DEATH OF AN ELEPHANT

A Topsy Timeline

The story begins with the capture of a baby elephant in Southeast Asia around 1875. She is abducted and forced to make the months-long land and sea journey to Hamburg, Germany where Carl Hagenbeck, the world's leading wild-animal dealer, is based.

Philadelphia-based impresario, Adam Forepaugh, buys the baby elephant and arranges with Hagenbeck to ship her as cargo to the United States to perform in the Forepaugh Circus.

1875

A female Asian elephant is born in Southeast Asia. She is captured by hunters and taken to Hamburg, Germany.

–

Carl Hagenbeck, the leading wild-animal dealer, sells her to circus owner Adam Forepaugh in the United States.

–

United States Congress passes the Civil Rights Act

1876

Adam Forepaugh brings Topsy to New York City to perform with the Forepaugh Circus.

–

He names her Topsy, probably inspired by the young female slave in Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1852 novel Uncle Tom's Cabin.

–

Forepaugh trains Topsy to perform in the circus ring. The Forepaugh Circus tours the United States on its circus train.

–

The United States celebrates its centennial and Colorado is admitted as the 38th U.S. state

–

Thomas Edison receives a patent for his mimeograph

1877

Thomas Edison invents the phonograph

1878

First commercial telephone exchange

1879

Thomas Edison tests his first light bulb

1882

PT Barnum buys Jumbo the elephant from the London Zoo and ships him to New York City to perform in his circus

1885

Jumbo killed in St. Thomas, Ontario after being hit by an unscheduled freight train

1888

Louis Le Prince records the Roundhay Garden Scene, the earliest surviving film

1890

The electric chair becomes a method for execution

1894

First gramophone record

1899

The Bronx Zoo opens

1901

First trans-Atlantic radio signal

-

Unification of Saudi Arabia

-

Cuba given independence by the United States

-

Willis Carrier invents the first modern electrical air conditioning unit

-

Second Boer War ends in British victory

1902

Topsy allegedly kills two elephant keepers in Texas. In New York, she kills Jesse Fielding Blount after he smacked her trunk as she slept in Brooklyn, and in Poughkeepsie, she attacks Louis J. Dondero after he allegedly 'tickles' her with a branch.

–

The Forepaugh Circus sells Topsy, and she eventually becomes the property of Frederic Thompson and Elmer 'Skip' Dundy. 1902 Thompson and Dundy build Luna Park, one of America's first amusement parks, on Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY.

–

They engage Frederick 'Whitey' Ault as Topsy's keeper.

–

Topsy helps to build Luna Park, but Ault beats her.

–

The police arrest Ault. After newspaper reports about his cruelty to Topsy, Thompson and Dundy fire Ault. They also decide to kill Topsy to publicise Luna Park's opening.

–

The Teddy Bear was introduced, named after President Theodore Roosevelt

-

Ringling Brothers Circus toured the United States on its circus train consisting of sixty-five railroad cars

-

"Electric Theatre", the first full-time movie theatre in the United States, opens in Los Angeles

1903

On January 4, Topsy is poisoned with carrots laced with 460 grains of potassium cyanide, but she lives.

–

She dies from 6,600 volts of electricity. Her body is reportedly hung, but it is unclear if the hanging took place.

–

The Edison Manufacturing Company films Topsy's electrocution.

–

The U.S. Census Bureau becomes part of the new U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor

-

The first silent film, "The Great Train Robbery"

-

Orville and Wilbur Wright are first to fly a controlled, powered, and sustained heavier-than-air airplane at Kitty Hawk, NC

The present day

Recognised as a pivotal moment in filmmaking history, 'Electrocuting an Elephant' attracts more than 1.4 million views on YouTube.

-

Topsy was a female Asian elephant.
There are estimated to be only 35,000 to 40,000 wild Asian elephants. About 100 years ago, there were 100,000 elephants in Asia. Asian elephants are listed as endangered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

-

Asian elephants continue to die from electrocution in India and other Southeast Asian countries. They die from touching live electric cables lowered by farmers over migratory routes and elephant corridors to stop them from eating their crops.

2004

Google launches Gmail. *A newborn western gorilla is observed for the first time in 50 years in the Léfini Faunal Reserve.* **Osama bin Laden released a video taking credit for the September 11 attacks in 2001.** *George W. Bush is re-elected president of the United States, defeating his Democratic challenger, John Kerry.* **Palestinian president Yasser Arafat dies. Mahmoud Abbas is appointed as his successor. The Animal Rights Network** (the non-profit publisher of The Animals' Agenda) reinvents itself as the **Institute for Animals and Society** (IAS). **IAS and the Culture & Animals Foundation**, founded by **Nancy & Tom Regan**, co-produce a series of conferences as part of CAF's Compassionate Living Festival, with speakers such as **Marc Bekoff, John Mackey, Jeffrey Masson, Miyun Park,** and **Jill Robinson.**





2005

Ken Shapiro and Kim Stallwood co-founded the **Animals and Society Institute** by merging the **Institute for Animals and Society** (formerly The Animals' Agenda magazine) with the **Society and Animals Forum** (formerly Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). **The American Sociological Association** published ***Teaching About Animals and Society:*** *A Collection of Syllabi, Projects, Assignments, Web Sites, Articles and Bibliographies,* co-edited by **Janet M. Ager, Tracey Smith-Harris, Shawn McEntee,** and **Kim Stallwood.** **Charles, Prince of Wales, marries Camilla Parker Bowles.** *The Kyoto Protocol was implemented after its adoption in 1997.* **Hurricane Katrina makes landfall along the US Gulf Coast. The first YouTube video titled "Me at the zoo" was uploaded.**

2006

2006



President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad confirms that Iran successfully produced a few grams of low-grade enriched uranium. *Australian conservationist Steve Irwin fatally stung in the heart by a stingray.* **Prime Minister Tony Blair announced his intention to resign by the end of 2007.** *Alexander Litvinenko dies in London from Polonium-210 poisoning.* I continued to work with Ken Shapiro as co-executive director of the **Animals and Society Institute, collaborating** with such organisations as the **Culture & Animals Foundation,** founded by Nancy and Tom Regan in 1985. **I read *For the Prevention of Cruelty: The History and Legacy of Animal Rights Activism in the United States* by Diane L. Beers** *(published by Swallow Press/Ohio University Press in 2006).*

Image: Sue Coe

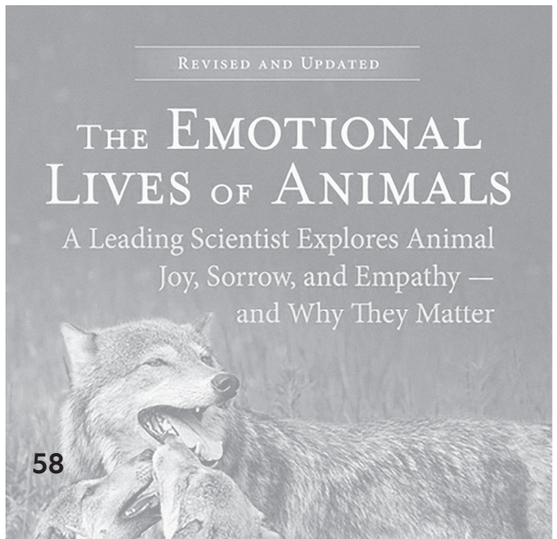
2007

After 20 years in the United States, I return to the UK and work as a consultant to **Alley Cat Allies, CIWF**, and the **Animals and Society Institute.** My first published work on Topsy is as the author of the narrative that went with the art by ***Sue Coe*** called **Topsy, An Elephant Never Forgets** in ***Blab! Vol. 18*** *(Fantagraphics).* **Nancy Pelosi becomes the first female speaker of the US House of Representatives.** *Apple CEO Steve Jobs introduces the original iPhone.* **Microsoft releases Windows Vista. British three-year-old Madeleine McCann disappears in Praia da Luz, Lagos, Portugal.** *Gordon Brown becomes UK Prime Minister.* **At the age of 81 years, 244 days, Queen Elizabeth II becomes the oldest reigning British monarch.** *Former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto is assassinated at a rally in Rawalpindi.*

2008

2008

Stock markets around the world plunge. *Apple Inc. launches the App Store, Microsoft publicly announces Windows 7.* **Democrat US Senator Barack Obama elected the 44th President of the USA.** *Israel invades the Gaza Strip.* **Bernard Madoff arrested for securities fraud.** *Worldwide release of Grand Theft Auto IV sells more than 3.6 million units and earns $310 million during the first day.* **Radovan Karadžić, the first president of the Republic of Srpska, arrested in Belgrade, Serbia for war crimes.** *The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) officially inaugurated.* Now based in **Hastings, East Sussex, England,** where I work as an **author, consultant, independent scholar,** and **curator. I work with the Animals and Society Institute and the Culture & Animals Foundation on the Compassionate Living Festival in Raleigh, North Carolina.**



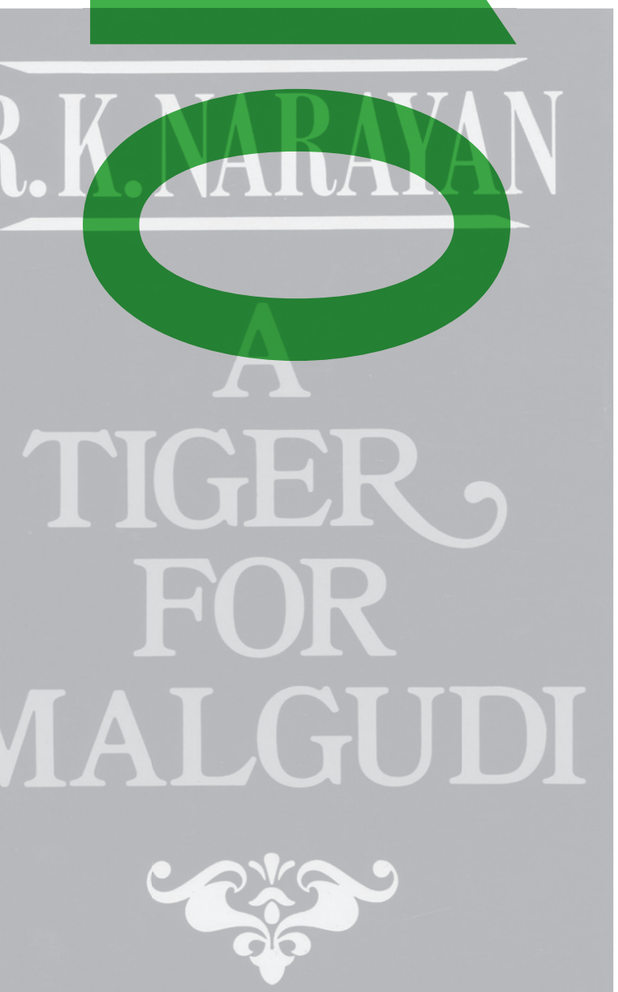


2009

From 2009 to 2017, I work with Compassion In World Farming's Chief Executive, Philip Lymbery, on various projects. I first worked for CIWF as their campaigns organiser in 1976–1978. **Michael Jackson dies from acute propofol intoxication aged 50.** *Bay Area Rapid Transit police officer shoots and kills Oscar Grant, an unarmed black man, at Fruitvale Station in Oakland.* **UNESCO launches The World Digital Library.** *The video game Minecraft is released and becomes the best-selling video game of all time.* **The outbreak of the H1N1 influenza strain, commonly referred to as "swine flu", is recognised as a global pandemic.** *Greenland gains self-rule.* **Membership details of the extreme right-wing British National Party, are posted online by WikiLeaks.**

2010

2010



The Deepwater Horizon oil drilling platform explodes in the Gulf of Mexico. *The United Kingdom general election results in a hung parliament.* **The first Apple iPad is released. WikiLeaks releases footage of a 2007 airstrike in Iraq called "Collateral Murder".** *Volcanic ash from Mount Eyjafjallajökull, disrupts air traffic.* **Instagram launches publicly on 6 October.** *The World Health Organisation declares the H1N1 influenza pandemic over.* **Germany makes the final reparation payment for World War I.** I read the novel ***A Tiger for Malgudi*** by Indian author **R K Narayan,** which became one of my favourite books with an animal as the protagonist. This novel inspires research and writing for my book about **Topsy, the female Asian elephant electrocuted to death in 1903.**

I present my paper, **'Animal Rights and Public Policy',** at the **Animals & the Law conference** at the Autonomous University in Barcelona, Spain. **The podcast Our Hen House interviews me for episode 97.** The Journal of Animal Welfare Law publishes my article, **No Substitute for the Law.** **A 9.1-magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit the east of Japan.** *US President Barack Obama announces the death of Osama bin Laden.* **Grímsvötn, Iceland's most active volcano, erupts, causing disruption to air travel in Northwestern Europe.** *The Food and Agriculture Organisation announces the global eradication of cattle plague rinderpest.* **Anders Behring Breivik kills 8 people in Oslo and 69 on the island of Utøya.** *Occupy Wall Street protests begin in the United States.* **Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi killed in Sirte.**



2011

In 2020, **The British Library** established the Kim Stallwood Archive with 36 boxes of research materials chronicling the animal rights movement's development, including my involvement, from the mid-1970s to the late 1980s.

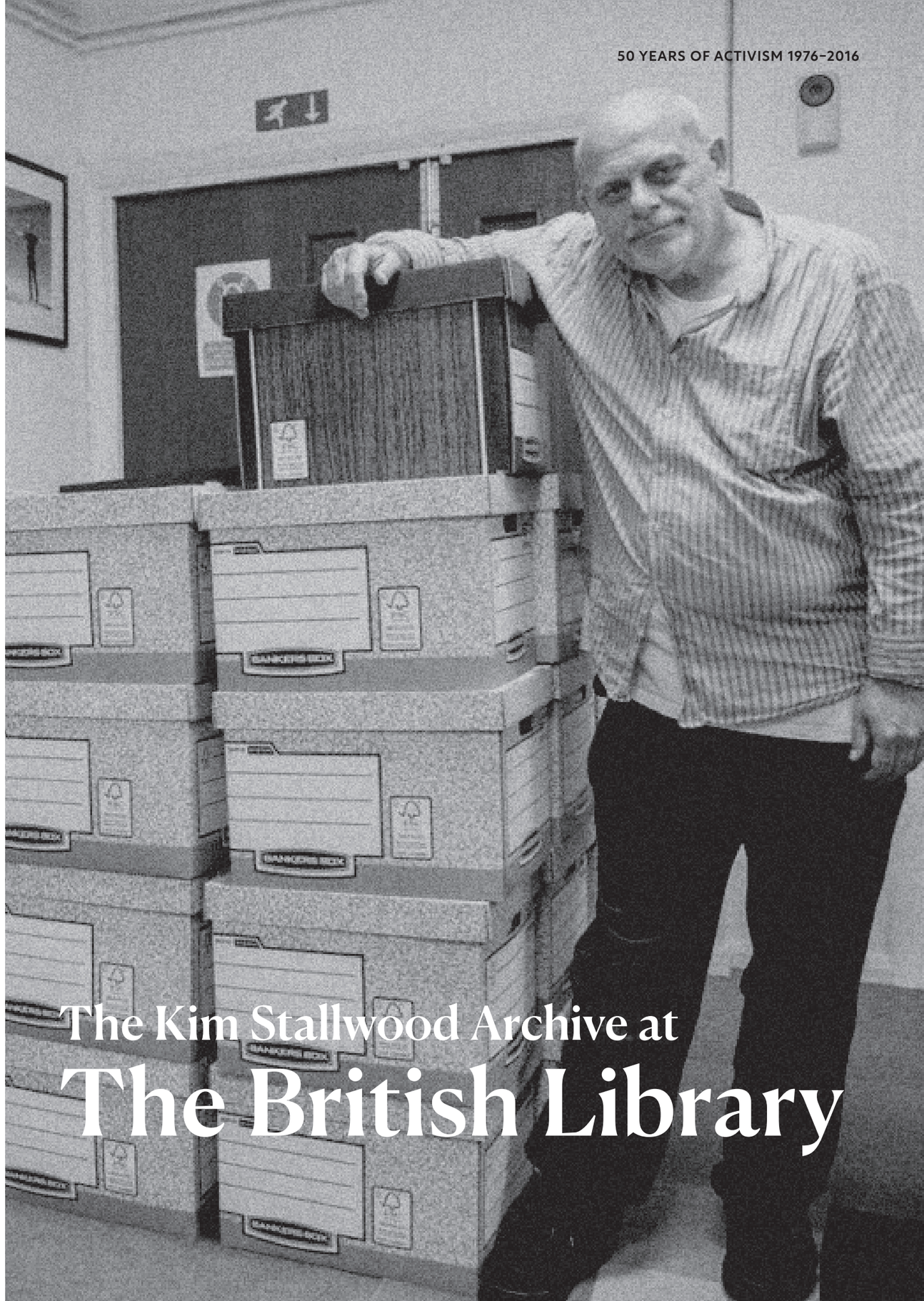
The boxes included more than 800 files, including 600 organisation files, 150 people files, and 118 subject files.

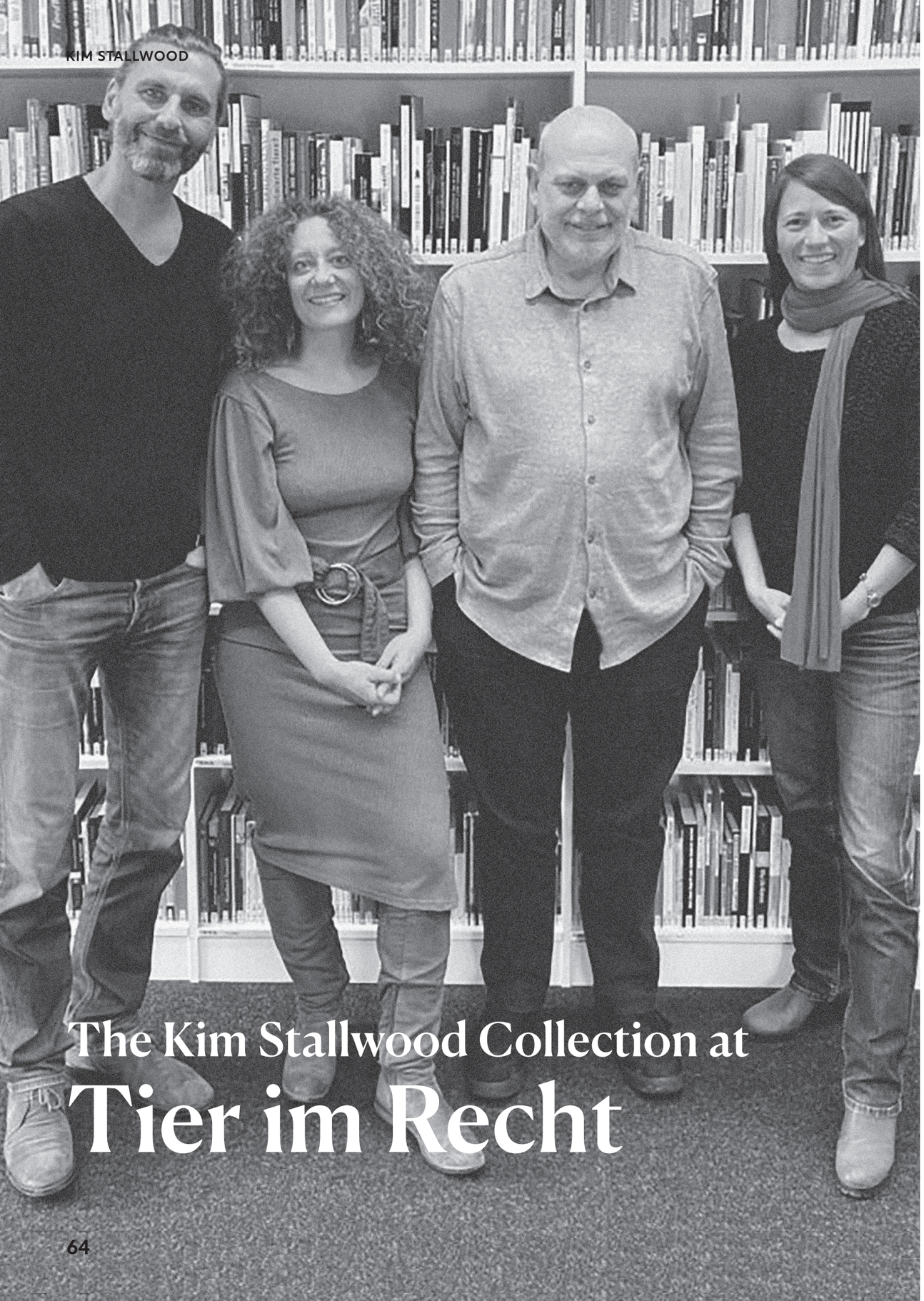
The files included correspondence, manuscripts, meeting notes, publications, and press cuttings. There were also appointment diaries and address books from the 1970s to the 1990s and the born-digital files of two laptops. Some of the most sensitive research materials are embargoed for 25 years.

The Kim Stallwood Archive includes files from Co-ordinating Animal Welfare, the groundbreaking activist organisation that I co-founded with Fay Funnell and Angela Walder, which nurtured the development of grassroots groups, challenged the effectiveness of established national organisations and contributed to the development of an international animal rights movement in its formative stage in the 1970s and 1980s. It also includes correspondence with Ingrid Newkirk, PETA's co-founder, and Jim Mason, author and attorney, from the late 1970s to early 1980s about the challenges to establishing the nascent animal rights movement in the UK and USA, including launching organisations, arranging demonstrations, and publishing magazines.

The Kim Stallwood Archive complements The British Library's earlier acquisition of the Richard Ryder Archive. In 1970, Richard initiated the word speciesism to mean discrimination against or exploitation of animals by humans based on an assumption of human superiority. As a long-standing member of the society's governing council, Richard led the efforts to modernise the RSPCA.

Richard is the author of many books, including *Victims of Science* (1975), a pioneering expose of animal research written by a psychologist.





The Kim Stallwood Collection at Tier im Recht

During my negotiations with **The British Library** about the **Kim Stallwood Collection,** it became apparent that they were interested in only the research materials. Consequently, **I had to find a permanent home for the remaining collection.**

From discussions with colleagues working in like-minded organisations and animal law departments in universities and from searching the Internet, I discovered Tier im Recht, the Swiss-based animal law charity. I saw on TIR's website that it had a significant library professionally managed by a qualified librarian.

In 2019 I made a plenary presentation at the World Conference for Mainstreaming Animal Protection in Denmark. Vanessa Gerritsen, TIR's deputy executive director, was in attendance. I introduced myself and we began talking about their library and possible interest in acquiring my collection. Moena Zeller, TIR's librarian, visited my office to see my library in 2021. The following March, I spent a week with TIR in Zurich, meeting with the organisation's professional staff and studying the impressive library, a reference collection containing more than 20,000 books, essays, and films on animals and the law, ethics, and society. We reached an agreement and TIR acquired the Stallwood Collection.

In 2021, I worked with TIR to acquire the International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals Archive, including papers belonging to its founder, Brian Gunn. One year later, the IAAPEA Archive and about one-half of the Stallwood Collection were shipped to TIR's offices in Zurich.

My library of more than 2,000 books on animal rights and related matters is the remaining part of my collection in England. I continue to use this resource, but it will eventually become part of the TIR library.

The Kim Stallwood Collection at TIR includes publications, magazines, academic journals, posters, badges, artefacts, films, videos, and photographs. It also includes the Professor Timothy Sprigge Collection, the Lawrence & Beavan Design Collection, the Lawrence & Beavan Photography Collection, the Duncan Weir Collection, the Richard Newman Collection, and the Cecil Schwartz Collection.

The Politics of Animal Rights

The animal rights movement is making progress with what can be viewed as short-term victories.

But, in the long term, we are failing to decrease the number of animals consumed, persuade enough people to go vegan, convince governments to pass meaningful legislation, and fundamentally challenge society's attitudes towards other animals. Establishing moral and legal rights for animals is currently beyond the present reach of the animal rights movement.

Our primary strategy of emphasising personal lifestyle choices (short-term), as opposed to more wholesale policy change (long-term), is no match for the animal industrial complex. Institutionalised animal exploitation is fundamentally different from individual acts of animal cruelty. They are principally for financial gain, which is why they are difficult to stop.

Generally, public policy and legislation (and their enforcement) reflect the dominant culture's view that animals exist for human purposes. This instrumental use is codified into law by designating animals as property rather than as independent, sentient beings with their own self-interests and legal standing. Various justifications are made in defence of this exploitation (e.g., feeding people, curing disease, entertainment, and education). The emerging market of vegan, cruelty-free products and services demonstrates that economically viable alternatives are increasingly available, even though this progress is slow, cyclical, and erratic.

The animal industrial complex has a self-interest in overstating the benefits of its animal exploitation. Its component corporations manipulate public opinion to fear any change in their use of animals. Most products and services derived from animal exploitation are not essential for human survival. People may not be aware of the existence of the animal industrial complex per se, but as consumers, they use its products and services as the food they eat, the clothes they wear, and the medications they take.

Of course, when asked about animal rights, many people are going to express concern about giving up any pleasure (e.g., eating meat) or losing any benefit (e.g., safe products) they may feel is their prerogative. But the deeper people's understanding, particularly of practices considered egregious (e.g., wearing fur or watching orca shows), the less fear there is of losing pleasure or benefit. Sympathy for animals, when they are particularly cruelly treated and where there is a willingness to forgo any perceived or real human benefits, is demonstrated in the public's slowly growing support for animal rights.

But the dominance of the animal industrial complex is emboldened by the animal rights movement and its narrow emphasis on personal lifestyle choices. Corporations that profit from animal exploitation occasionally accommodate symbolic demands made by the animal rights movement to end the egregious use of animals.

While these developments deserve recognition, they are accomplished without any real obligation imposed on the animal industrial complex to end its institutionalised violence towards animals. These companies can sometimes take advantage of the opportunities for new markets in consumerism by touting incremental husbandry improvements (e.g., cage-free, pasture-raised, fewer hormones) without significantly impacting the lives of the animals they continue to exploit.

Although welfare changes are welcomed, they can also have the effect of weakening the animal rights movement's larger imperative for demanding moral and legal rights for animals by ensuring that many forms of animal exploitation (e.g., eating meat, using certain cosmetics) remain as personal lifestyle choices.

While genuine cooperation between the animal rights movement and the animal industrial complex is an important strategy to end animal exploitation, the former must avoid being used by the latter, even unwittingly, to legitimise or even perpetuate institutional animal exploitation.

Political and consumer campaigns which call for public policy to end animal exploitation have been shown to mobilise strong resistance from the animal industrial complex to protect its profitable use of animals. The animal industrial complex has a documented history of collusion with private security forces and state law enforcement to monitor, pervert, and harm the animal rights movement, including the infiltration of activist groups by law enforcement officers and/or informants. It is therefore not surprising that animal-related public policy is more about protecting human and corporate interests than protecting animals.

Animal researchers (not anti-vivisectionists) and animal farmers (not vegans) are far more likely to be represented in the policy-making networks which determine regulations and laws governing the use of animals. This is due in large part to our understanding of animal rights as a narrowly defined moral crusade and lifestyle choice. Not as a wider social movement with a political mission and strategic objectives.

Adapted from ***"Are We Smart Enough to Know When to Take the Political Turn for Animals?"*** *in Ethical and Political Approaches to Non-human Animal Issues edited by Andrew Woodhall and Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade (Palgrave; 2017)*

2012



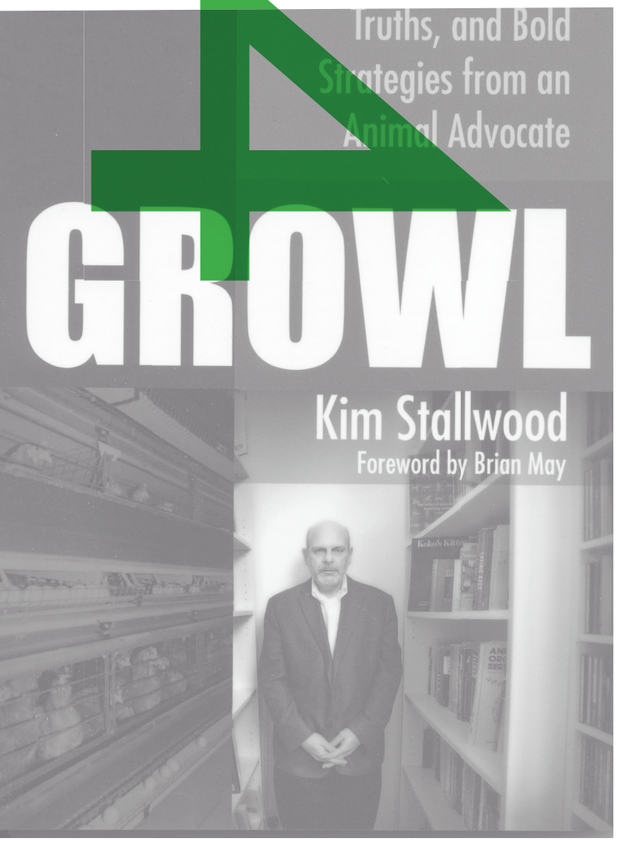
I served as the volunteer executive director of **Minding Animals International from 2012 to 2017,** and co-produced MAI Conferences in the **Netherlands (2012), India (2015), and Mexico (2018).** Presented **'The Influence of Ecofeminism on my Animal Rights Practice'** at **Finding a Niche for All Animals: A Conference Honouring the Ecofeminist Work of Marti Kheel** at Wesleyan University, Connecticut, and **'Animal Rights: Moral Crusade or Social Movement?'** at MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory at the University of Manchester; the **Emotional Lives of Animals conference**, Genoa University, Italy; and **Critical Perspectives on Animals in Society**, University of Exeter. Interviewed by the **Animal Rights Zone podcast**.

US President Barack Obama re-elected. A meteor explodes over the Russian city of Chelyabinsk. **Pope Francis becomes 266th pontif.** *Margaret Thatcher dies.* **British Army soldier Fusilier Lee Rigby murdered in London.** *Edward Snowden discloses US government mass surveillance programs and flees the United States for Russia.* **The US Supreme Court overturns a key section of the Defence of Marriage Act granting federal recognition to same-sex marriage.** Interviewed by Roger Yates for the **Human-Nonhuman Relations podcast.** Presented **'Animal rights: Moral crusade or political movement?'** at the International Animal Rights Conference, Luxembourg, and **'Animal Witness'** at London VegfestUK. **NCSU Libraries writes to thank my role in building the Tom Regan Animal Rights Archive** and acquire several collections for its holdings.

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2013

2014

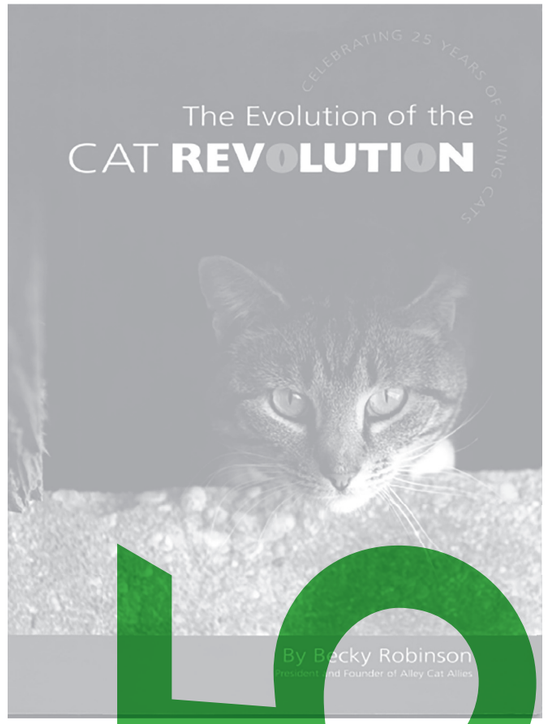


The Catholic Church simultaneously canonises Popes John XXIII and John Paul II. **The 100th anniversary of World War 1 honoured.** *Scotland votes against independence from the UK.* **One World Trade Centre in New York City opens.** *US President Barack Obama announces the resumption of normal diplomatic relations with Cuba.* Lantern publishes my book, ***Growl. Life Lessons, Hard Truths, and Bold Strategies from an Animal Advocate*** foreword by Brian May.

I embark on an author's media and book tour speaking in the United Kingdom and United States. My chapter, **Animal Rights: Moral Crusade or Social Movement?** is published in **Thinking The Unthinkable: New Readings in Critical Animal Studies** edited by John Sorenson (Canadian Scholars Press).

As the volunteer **Executive Director of Minding Animals International,** I co-produce MAI's third conference at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. My article, **'Animal Rights and Public Policy: From Moral Crusade to Social Justice'**, is published in the journal, Animals and the Law, the first anthology in Spanish on animal law. **I present my paper, 'Animal Lovers and Animal Rights', at the Animal Lovers conference and art exhibit in Berlin.** The Vegan Society magazine, **The Vegan**, publish my article, **'Memoirs of a Vegan Animal Rights Activist.'** Alley Cat Allies publishes ***The Evolution of the Cat Revolution: Celebrating 25 Years of Saving Cats by Becky Robinson***, which I edited.

The 2015 UK General Election results in the first Conservative majority government in 18 years.



2015

2016



The International Atomic Energy Agency announces Iran has adequately dismantled its nuclear weapons program, allowing the United Nations to lift sanctions immediately. *The World Health Organisation announces an outbreak of the Zika virus.* On an author's tour, I speak about my book, **Growl**, at public meetings hosted by **Djurens Ratt in Stockholm, Sweden, Animalia in Helsinki, Finland, and the Open Cages Conference on Animal Rights in Europe in Warsaw, Poland.** My article, **'For All Regardless of Species',** is published in *Satya: The Long View—A reflection on over two decades of activism and where we go from here* edited by Sangamithra Iyer. **I participated in a plenary panel on challenges facing the animal rights movement at the AR2016 conference in Los Angeles.**

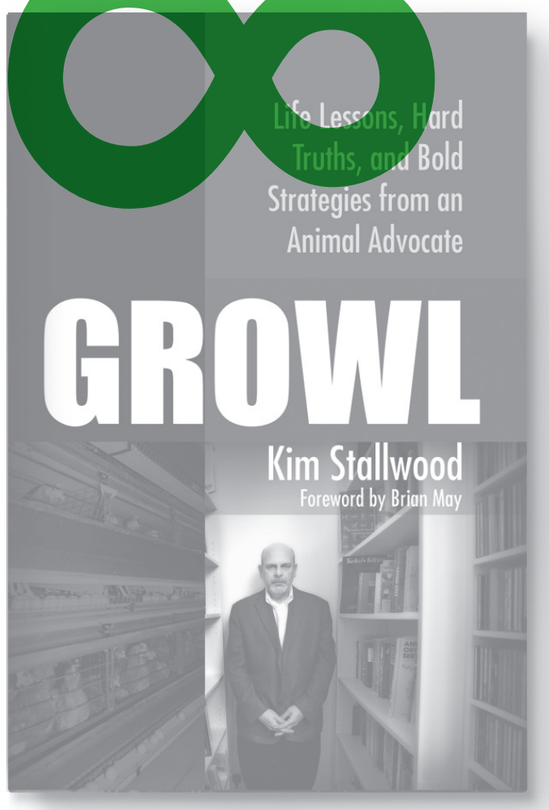


2017

Join the volunteer board of directors of the Culture and Animals Foundation, founded by Tom and Nancy Regan in 1985. **My chapter, *'Are We Smart Enough to Know When to Take the Political Turn for Animals?'* is published in Ethical and Political Approaches to Nonhuman Animal Issues, edited Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade & Andrew Woodhall *(NY: Palgrave).* I resign as volunteer executive director of Minding Animals International and as consultant to Philip Lymbery, CIWF chief executive.** The Grenfell Tower Fire in West London claims the lives of 72 residents. *A new species of orangutan identified in Indonesia, becoming the third species known as well as the first great ape to be described for almost a century.* The United States officially recognises Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

2016

A severe outbreak of the West African Ebola virus epidemic kills 11,310 and infects 28,616. *Belgium becomes the first country in the world to legalise euthanasia for terminally ill patients of any age.* **The UK, the US, Italy, Germany, France, Japan, and Canada temporarily suspend Russia from the G8.** *King Juan Carlos I of Spain abdicates.* Lantern publishes my book, **Growl. Life Lessons, Hard Truths, and Bold Strategies from an Animal Advocate,** foreword by Brian May. **I embark on an author's media and book tour speaking in the United Kingdom and United States.** My chapter, **'Animal Rights: Moral Crusade or Social Movement?'**, is published in **Thinking The Unthinkable: New Readings in Critical Animal Studies** edited by John Sorenson (Canadian Scholars Press).



Volodymyr Zelenskyy is elected the President of Ukraine, Boris Johnson becomes the U.K. Prime Minister. Presented **'Putting Animals into Politics'** at MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory at the University of Manchester and at the Mainstreaming Animal Protection Conference, Denmark. **Presented *'Why living as a vegan is at the heart of living sustainably'* at the Sustainability on Sea Festival, Hastings, East Sussex.** At the London VegFest, I chaired the **'Why Rebel?'** panel and presented **'Brexit, Elections, Rebellions, and Animal Rights,'** with Roger Hallam *(Extinction Rebellion)*, Esther Solomon *(Animal Rebellion)*, and Dan Kidby *(Animal Think Tank)*. **Sentient Media publishes *'We Are All Animal Lovers'* which I co-authored with Philip McKibbin.**



"Moral crusades are a type of social movement that frames specific issues as exclusive causes with extraordinary meaning."

Animal Rights is a Social Movement

In their edited anthology *The Social Movements Reader*, sociologists Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper define social movements as a "collective, organised, sustained, and non-institutional challenge to authorities, power holders, or cultural beliefs and practices."

By that definition, the modern animal rights movement is a social movement in terms of being collectively organised and sustained, but it has yet to effectively develop the capacity for challenging authority in the political mainstream, as full-fledged social movements do.

Moral crusades are a type of social movement that frames specific issues as exclusive causes with extraordinary meaning. They may be religious or political campaigns or similar initiatives which embed a spiritual, political, or moral belief as an integral component. They address fundamental and profound issues relating to human activity, including the relationship we have with ourselves and our place in society.

Moral crusades rely upon campaigns which trigger moral shocks to provoke public outrage; for example, efforts to ban keeping so-called dangerous dogs rely upon sensational media coverage of attacks by certain types of dogs on defenceless people (often children). Such extraordinary situations or conflicts may even be characterised as moral panics because of their exaggerated sense of urgency.

Contemporary moral crusades are often contentious issues that relate to lifestyle choice (e.g., alcohol consumption and recreational or illegal drug use), sexual activity (e.g., pornography, homosexuality, and monogamy), or issues of individual health or freedom (e.g., abortion, euthanasia, death penalty).

Social movements, including animal rights, are accused routinely of seeking change which will adversely impact society if they achieve their objective. But if it were, very little social and/or economic progress would have been made over the centuries if lasting harm resulted from social change. Such exaggerated negative consequences rarely, if ever, turn out to be true.

Even though moral crusades mean different things to different people, it is not unreasonable, if not entirely correct, to view the animal rights movement as one. Certainly, the animal rights movement behaves like a moral crusade, with its emphasis on personal lifestyle choice and with such calls to action as "Go vegan!"
or "Go cruelty-free!" For it to function as a more comprehensive social movement, it must also challenge the laws and policies that allow animals to be raised for food or used for research in the first place.

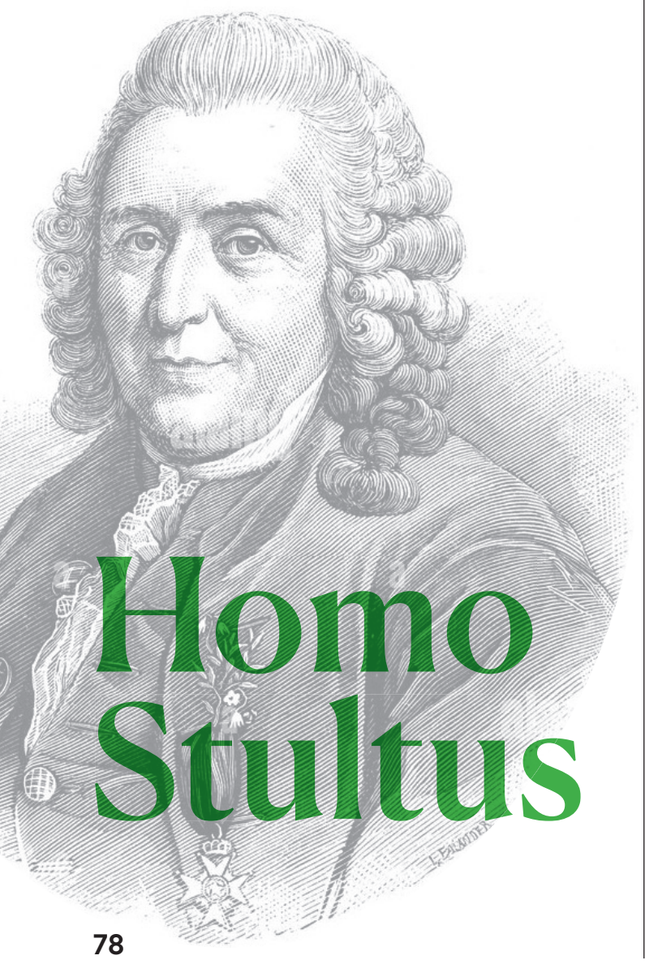
The modern animal rights movement has increased public awareness about animal exploitation, encouraged people to live cruelty-free lifestyles, particularly as vegetarians and vegans, persuaded corporations, charities, non-governmental organisations, churches, and other entities like them to adopt various pro-animal policies, and lobby local, national, and international governments and their agencies to implement regulations and pass laws limiting or prohibiting some animal use.

But the challenges that other exclusively human-based moral crusades have confronted (e.g., civil rights) are clearly different from those which the animal rights movement faces. The animal rights movement asks that members of one species should change thousands of years of custom and practice regarding its relationship with all other species—a challenge of unprecedented scale. This presents unique challenges to achieving political change for animals as opposed to simply elevating their moral status.

The animal industrial complex defends and promotes its continued use of animals in science, agriculture, and other industries by claiming that any interests these animals may have must always be subordinate to human interests. This frames human and animal interests as a competition, or as a source of serious, repeated, or even irreconcilable conflicts. This is a strategic superiority dichotomy prevalent in human history: men over women, whites over blacks, heterosexuals over homosexuals, and humans over animals.

Adapted from ***"Are We Smart Enough to Know When to Take the Political Turn for Animals?"*** *in Ethical and Political Approaches to Nonhuman Animal Issues edited by Andrew Woodhall and Gabriel Garmendia da Trindade (Palgrave; 2017)*

The Swedish naturalist **Carl Linnaeus** named our species *Homo sapiens* in 1758. He thought it appropriate that our scientific name in Latin should be **wise man.** But how stupid could Linnaeus be?



Homo Stultus

Have you looked around recently? Everywhere, all you see is the impact of our wise species. Just look at the mess we have made of things. War. Poverty. Greed. Prejudice. Hatred. Pollution. And much more. And not just recently, ***Homo sapiens*** have been messing up for millennia. And it's not getting any better.

Of course, translating ***Homo sapiens*** to wise people is problematic. Assuming *Homo sapiens* is gender neutral ignores the reality that we mostly live in patriarchal societies. And it's mostly *Homo sapiens* of the male kind who are responsible for the mess. Females may not be as liable, but they're complicit. No one is free from blame. We're all guilty to a greater or lesser degree.

I argue we should no longer see ourselves as the wise species. We're only here because fools like Linnaeus put us there. And, of course, religion and science are guilty as charged. The Son of God, the only rational animal, and all that. We always put ourselves at the top or at the centre. Never on the side or on the bottom. It is always about us.

Homo superbus* (proud)** and ***Homo arrogans* (arrogant)** are worthy alternatives to ***Homo sapiens. But they don't make my point strongly enough. Let's replace *Homo sapiens* with ***Homo stultus* (stupid)**. Interestingly, stultify describes becoming stupid. A state we have always occupied and will most likely never leave.

Carl Linnaeus *(1707-78). Also known as Carolus Linnaeus and Carl von Linné. Engraving by Ida Falander (1842-1927).*

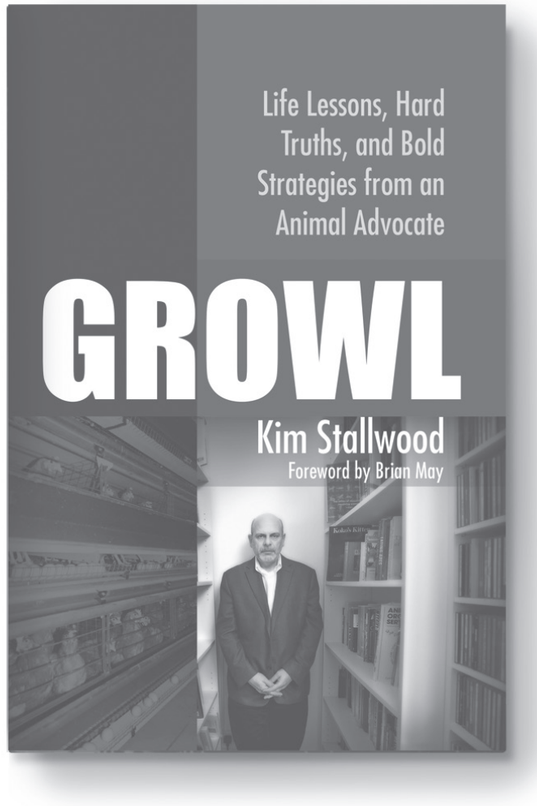
Selected Publications

by Kim Stallwood

For five decades, Kim Stallwood has had a front seat in the animal rights movement, starting at the grassroots in England and working his way up to leadership positions at some of the best-known organizations in the world, including Compassion In World Farming, the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Yet, as Stallwood reveals in this memoir of an eventful life dedicated to social justice for the voiceless, finding the truest path for progress has meant learning a lot along the way.

Equal parts personal narrative, social history, and impassioned call for rethinking animal advocacy, Growl describes Stallwood's journey from a meat-eating slaughterhouse worker to a vegan activist for all species. He explains the importance of four key values in animal rights philosophy and practice—compassion, truth, nonviolence, and justice—and how a deeper understanding of their role not only leads us to discover our humanity for animals, but also for ourselves.

These and other publications by Kim Stallwood are available to buy on Amazon to download to read on your Kindle or similar device.



Growl, Kim Stallwood

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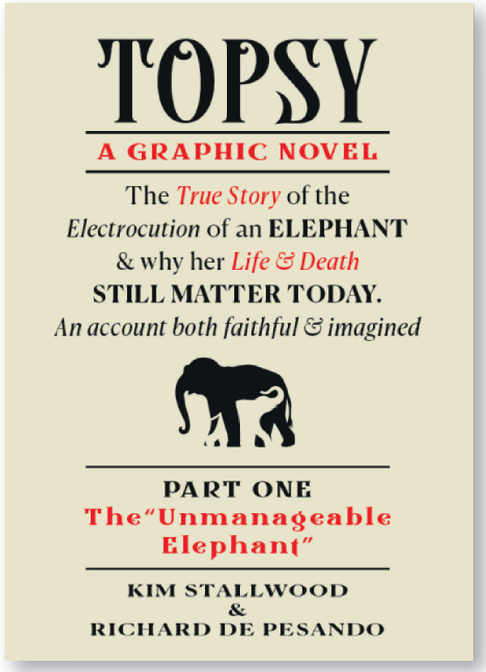
Life Lessons, Hard Truths, and Bold Strategies from an Animal Advocate

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With a Foreword by Brian May

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Lantern Media
Paperback
ISBN 9781590563960
eBook
ISBN 9781590563977



Topsy: A Graphic Novel Part One, "The Unmanageable Elephant"

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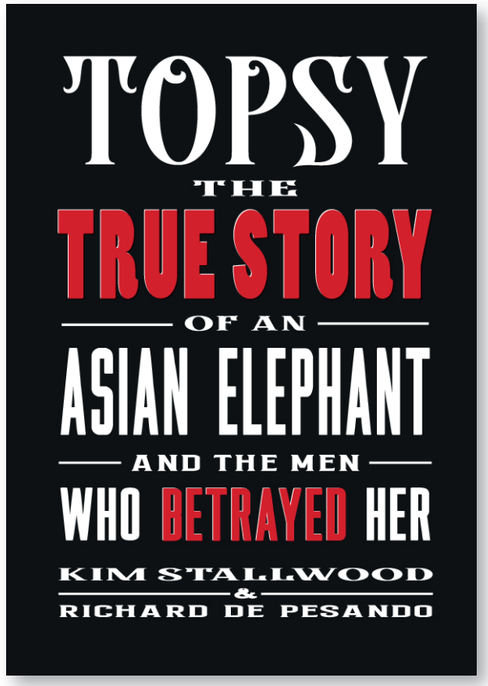
Part One of a six-part Graphic Novel

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Kim Stallwood
& Richard de Pesando

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AmbitiousOutsiders, 2025
ISBN-10 : 9781738438556



Topsy: The True Story

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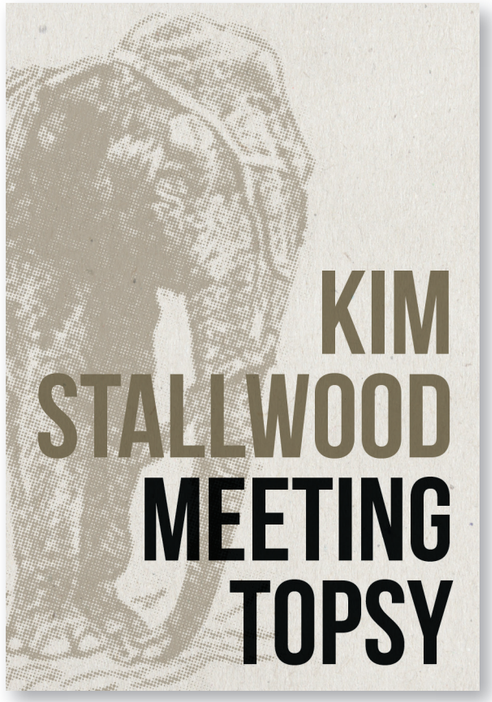
Limited Edition Graphic Novel

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Kim Stallwood
& Richard de Pesando

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AmbitiousOutsiders, 2024
ISBN-10 : 9781738438563



Meeting Topsy

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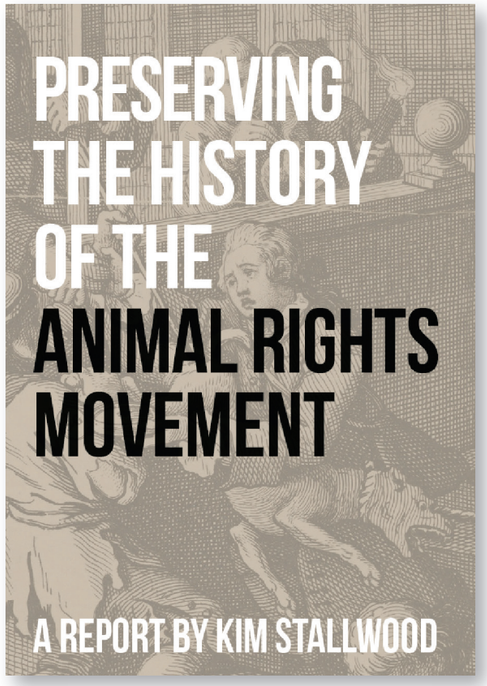
Join Kim as he works to give voice to Topsy, discovers her story and learns how she influences the media, politics and the animal rights community today

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Kim Stallwood

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AmbitiousOutsiders, 2024
ISBN-10 : 9781738438518



Preserving the History of the Animal Rights Movement

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A detailed report by Kim Stallwood on preserving the history of the animal rights movement

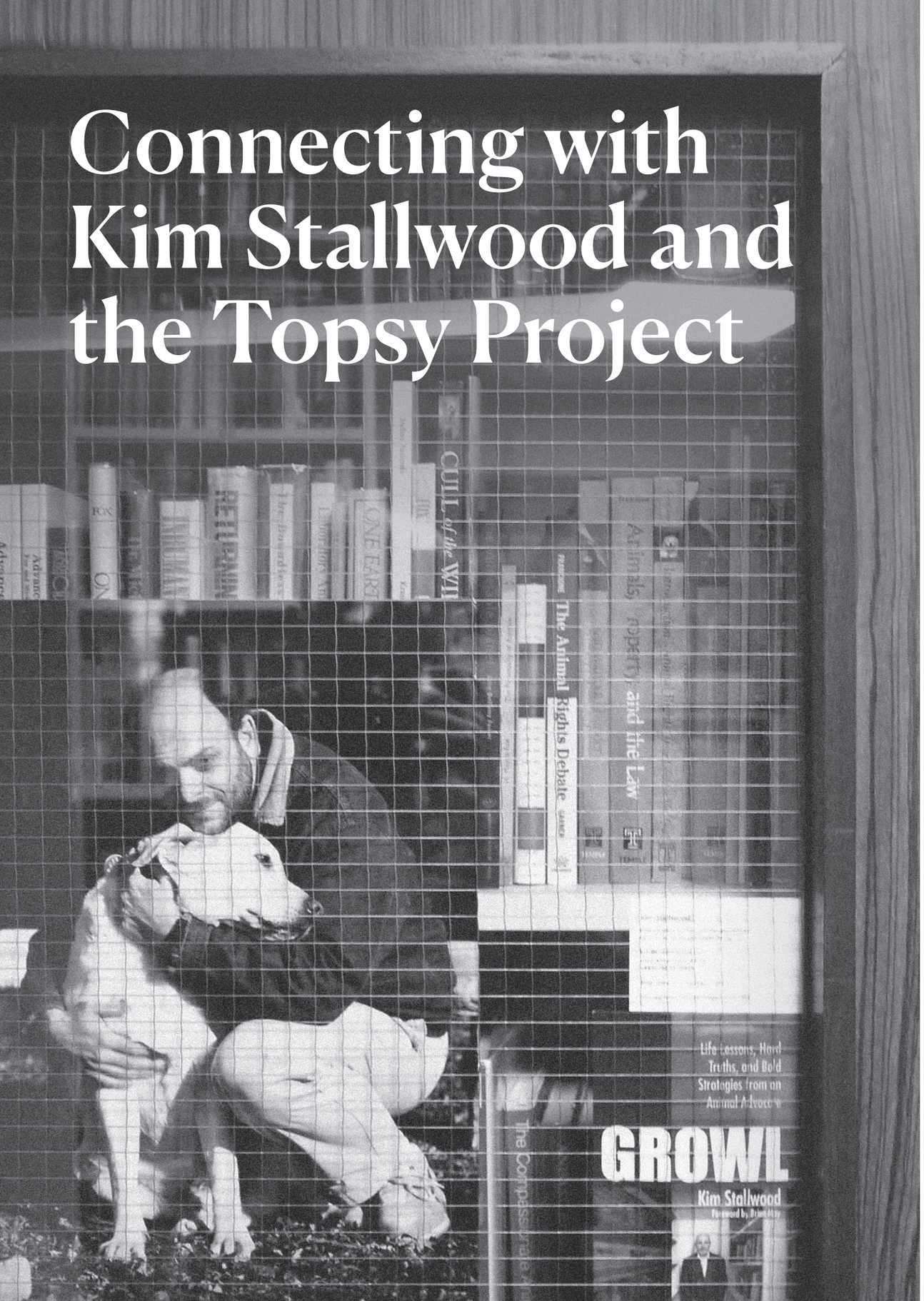
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Kim Stallwood

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Order from:
ambitiousoutsiders.com
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Connecting with Kim Stallwood and the Topsy Project



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Substack is a platform for authors, journalists, and writers with different interests to publish their work and for subscribers to follow them with free and fee-paying subscription newsletters. If you want to follow me as an author writing about animal rights and Topsy The Elephant, you will want to go to my page on Substack.

This is where I publish articles, interviews, book reviews, and updates. My writing here, including about Topsy, is available for free. If you would like to financially support me as a writer, Substack provides an opportunity to do so.

But the most important step to take on Substack is to follow me. Please visit

https://kimstallwood.substack.com

THE KIM STALLWOOD WEBSITE

I think of my website as the Kim Stallwood Department Store—a bit of this and a bit of that. All interesting and relevant stuff gathered under one roof. It's the storefront where my work as an animal rights author, scholar, and curator is showcased.

www.kimstallwood.com

TOPSY THE ELEPHANT

This website is dedicated to topsy and was launched on the anniversary of her electrocution on 4 January 2024. Please visit the Topsy shop & support page to buy and download copies of books about Topsy. Please check in regularly at

www.topsytheelephant.com

PATREON

If you want to donate to help make possible my work in animal rights, including writing *Topsy the Elephant*, please visit my page on Patreon.

Patreon is what independent writers like me use to raise funds to pay for essential costs and necessary expenses. In my case, they include maintaining a small, modest windowless office where I write. This is also where I keep my research materials about Topsy, elephants, circuses, and zoos. My office is also home to my animal rights library of more than 2,000 titles.

Additional costs include membership in The London Library. This charity is an incredible resource that provides me with access to rare books, academic journals, and scientific papers that would not otherwise be available to me.

You can support me on Patreon by choosing one of five levels to give, ranging from £3 or $5 to £47 or $60 each month. Please visit

www.patreon.com/kimstallwood

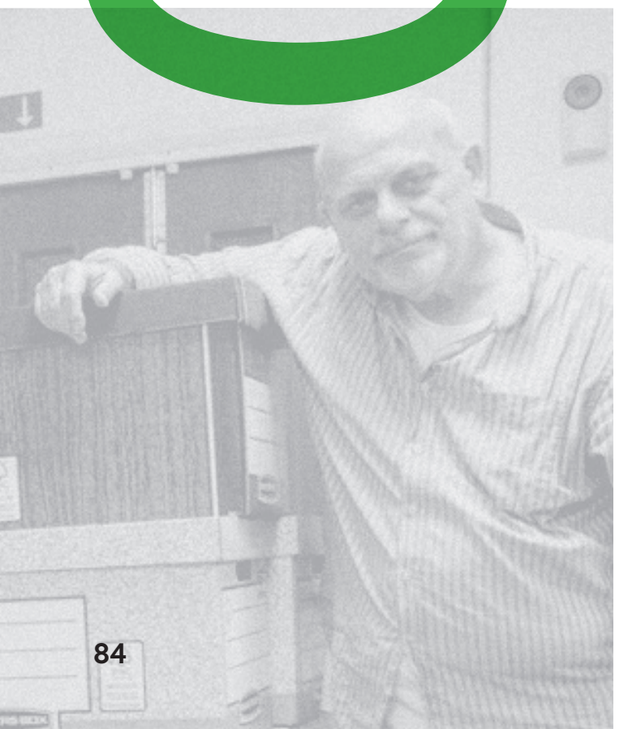
OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA

Further to Substack and Patreon, I'm also present on other social media, which I use to stay in touch with colleagues and others whose opinions matter to me. It's also a way for me to spread the word about my animal rights work, including Topsy. But sometimes I post about my life, including travel, growing fruits and vegetables, or making compost at my vegan organic allotment, and cooking vegan cakes. Please follow me on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Bluesky.

2020

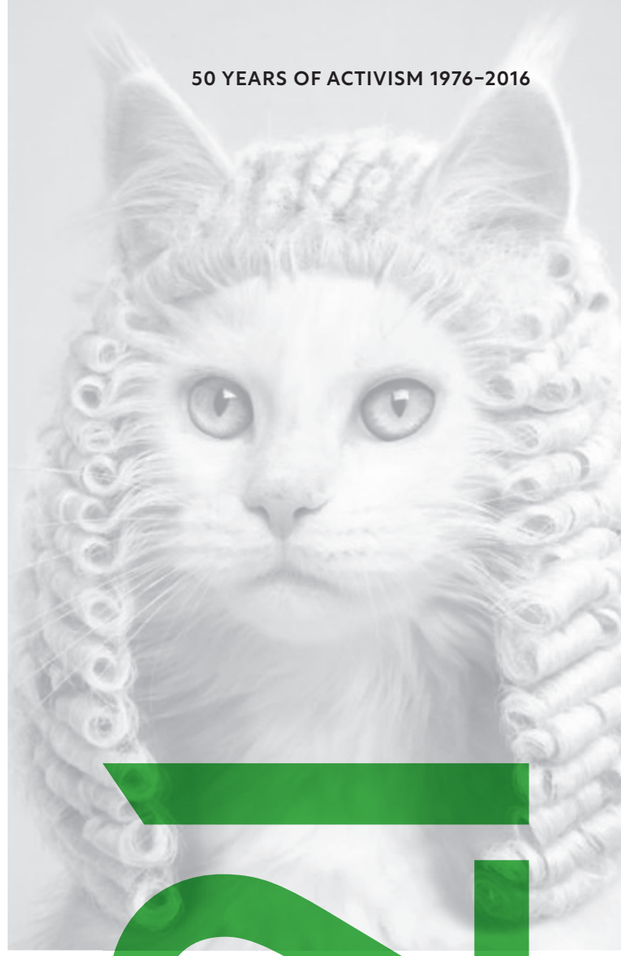
Impeachment trial of US President Donald Trump ends in acquittal. *Joe Biden elected as the 46th President.* Global death toll from COVID-19 exceeds 200,000.

The British Library establishes the **Kim Stallwood Archive** with 36 boxes of research and born-digital materials, including more than 800 files, two laptops, appointment diaries, and address books. **My chapter, 'A Felicitous Day for Fish', is published in Brigid Brophy: Avant-garde Writer, Critic, Activist edited by Richard Canning and Gerri Kimber (Edinburgh University Press).** The Knowing Animals podcast (episode 155) interviews me about my Brophy chapter and my British Library Archive. **I meet with the board of directors of the Belgium animal rights group, GAIA, about their long-term strategy.**



The British Library make the Kim Stallwood Archive publicly available. The podcast, Our Hen House, interview me about my British Library archive in episode 577. **The Sentientism podcast interviews me about my life's work for veganism and animal rights.** The Swiss-based animal law organisation, **Tier im Recht**, engage me as a consultant to advise on the expansion of their library, the acquisition of further collections of essential importance *(including the Kim Stallwood Collection)*, and improve the visibility and accessibility of the archive beyond Switzerland.

Supporters of US President Donald Trump attack the US Capitol, disrupting certification of the 2020 presidential election, and forcing both houses of Congress to evacuate. *Deaths from COVID-19 surpasses 4 million.*



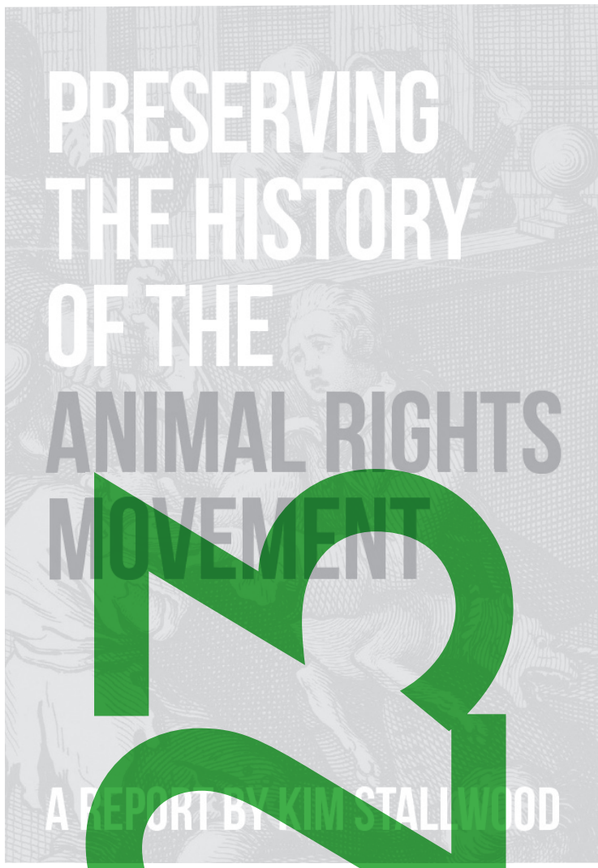
2020

2021



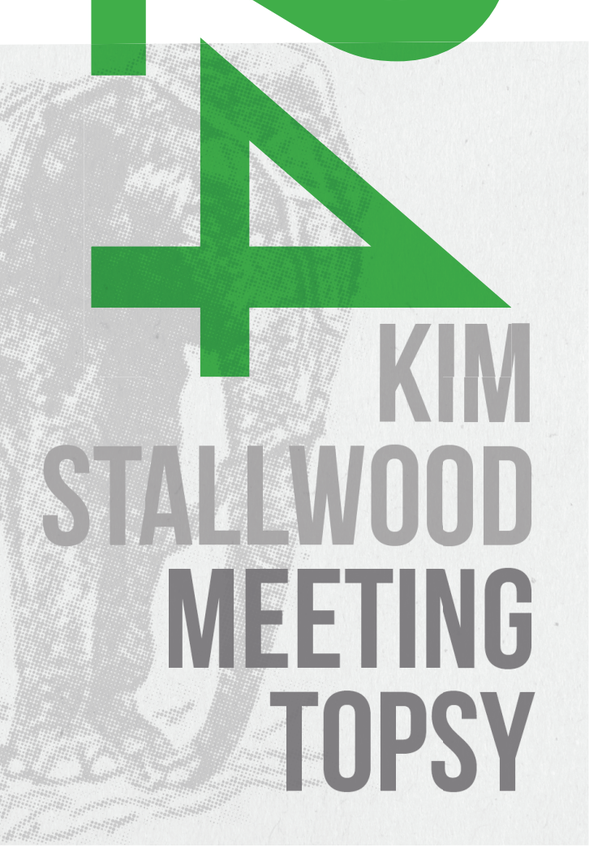
Tier im Recht establishes The Kim Stallwood Collection. **The British Library records a series of oral history interviews and the Petitioning and People Power in Twentieth-Century Britain project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and based at Durham University.** Complete a two-year class held by the Creative Writing Programme in Brighton. **Present the Tom Regan Memorial Lecture about the bicentenary of the Martin's Act 1822 and interviewed for the Culture & Animals Foundation podcast series about its legacy and impact in 200 years of animal on** the bicentenary of the *Martin's Act* at various animal law conferences and the **British Animal Studies Network** annual meeting and was Interviewed by Jordi Casamitjana for the *VeganFTA website.*

The British Library includes items from the stallwood archive in **'Animal Rights: From the Margins to the Mainstream',** *publishes* **(1) Animals and the Climate Emergency; (2) Animals and Feminism; (3) Animals and the Law;** *and* **(4) 'Animals and Social Justice on its Social Sciences blog,** and hosts,*'The Fight for Animal Rights: Kim Stallwood in Conversation'.* **Online presentation to international staff of *Veganuary*.** Led a Humane Society International staff retreat workshop. **Presented 'Topsy the Elephant' at the Emerging Voices for Animals in Tourism online conference.** Interviewed on the *Knowing Animals podcast episode 228.* **Pubished: *Preserving the History of the Animal Rights Movement;* Topsy the Elephant: A Timeline of Events 1875–The Present;** *and* **Topsy the Elephant.**



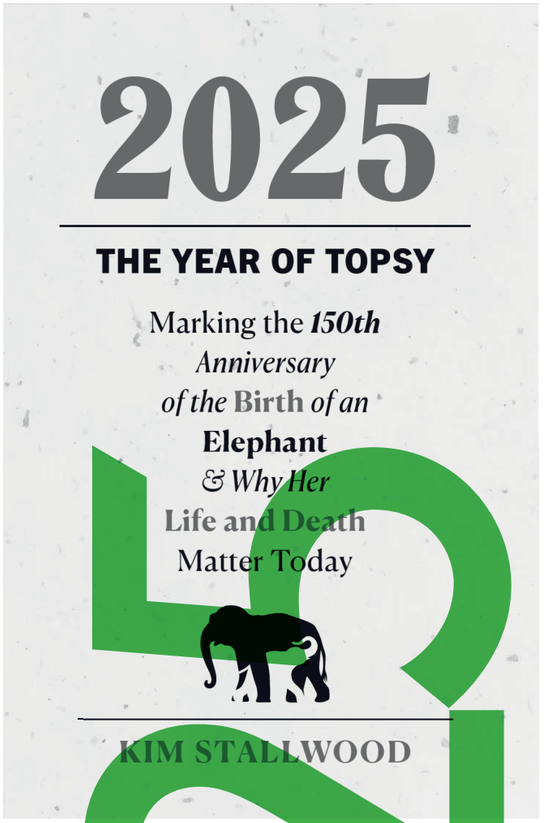
2021

2024



I stand down from the volunteer board of director of the Culture and Animals Foundation, **Author of Meeting Topsy, a self-published booklet.** Interviewed by the Animal Rights: The Debate podcast. **Guest speaker at Vegan Society's 80th Anniversary Launch Event and a keynote speaker at its annual meeting of The Vegan Society's Research Day 2024: Vegan Pasts, Presents and Futures.** The Vegan Society interviews me for its podcast and publishes two articles in their magazine The Vegan. **Presented *Topsy: Myth or Reality* at the Elephant Fables Panel at the Fabulous Species/ Human-Animal Relationships workshop, University of Kent** and to the staff at GREY2K USA. **Presented to *Exploring Human-Animal and Multispecies Relations: Risk Taking in Research Methods* Symposium at the University of Brighton.**

My book, '2025: **The Year of Topsy. Marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of an elephant and why her life and death matter today',** is published by **Ambitious Outsiders**. Patricia Denys and Mary Holmes interviewed me for **Animal Culture Magazine** who also publishes my the article, **'The Champion for a Female Elephant Named Topsy: The Mission of Kim Stallwood'.** Vegan Authors interview published, **'Q&A with Kim Stallwood'.** Animal Politics with Ed Boks interview published, **'Kim Stallwood: The Conscience of the Animal Rights Movement'.** I join the Vine Sanctuary virtual book club discussion about **'2025: The Year of Topsy'.** I also join the Advisory Board, Culture and Animals Foundation



2025

In 2026, **The United States officially leaves the World Health Organization.** Three million pages related to the Epstein files are released to the public. **Israel and the United States launch attacks on Iran, killing many high-profile officials.** Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs addresses in a letter to the United Nations that ships not tied to either the United States or Israel can pass through the Strait of Hormuz. **The 2026 European heatwaves begin and continues through the year.** Elon Musk becomes the first US dollar trillionaire. **The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts the start of El Niño and anticipates it will rank among the largest since records began.** Keir Starmer announces his resignation as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and is replaced by Andy Burnham. **A total solar eclipse occurs in parts of Europe, the first in continental Europe** since 1999. I gave the Keynote presentation, **'Preserving the History of Animal Law and Animal Rights',** at **The UK Animal Law Conference 2026, 'The Future of Animal Law',** hosted by the **UK Centre for Animal Law and The Multispecies Collective.** Presented **'Animal Rights Advocacy as a Practice'** at **Animal Activism East and West: Fundraising, Lobbying, Art and More**, I attend a private online conference with activists and academics in China.

In 2026, I celebrate **50 years of vegan animal rights activism** with my current focus as an **author, scholar, and curator.** My two major projects are writing my book about **Topsy** and preserving the history of animal rights, including with the Swiss-based animal law organisation, **Tier im Recht.**



Conclusion Reflecting on a Life Devoted to Animals



On 17 June 2021, I collapsed unconscious in the street walking to my office in an East Sussex coastal town in England.

I would have died if it weren't for strangers walking behind me who came to my rescue. They called an ambulance immediately, and an emergency medical assistant arrived within minutes. Later that day in the hospital, I was diagnosed with a heart defect, a congenital heart problem that had caused the tissue in my aortic valve to atrophy. It stopped functioning that morning, threatening my life. I wasn't allowed home again for fear of a similar collapse killing me. In a couple of days, I was transferred to another hospital for open-heart surgery.

The heart surgeon introduced himself to me as a vegetarian. He looked me up on the Internet and discovered my long-standing commitment to veganism and animal rights. The defective heart valve, he said, had to be replaced with another made from the tissue that surrounds cows' hearts. He tried to reassure me that the cows would have been killed for their meat and not the tissue surrounding their heart, as it was a by-product. My response was immediate. The reason the cow was killed was irrelevant. I demanded to know what the options were. The only option, he explained, was a mechanical heart valve, but for various medical reasons this wasn't viable for me. I wanted to know why the tissue couldn't be grown in a lab. "They grow meat in a lab," I lectured him. He patiently explained that had not yet been done.

As a vegan since 1976, I experienced a personal ethical crisis. I knew from my long-standing study of animal ethics that philosophers use hypothetical situations to support their arguments. We may respond confidently or dismissively to such conundrums, but confronted with a decision that determines whether you live or die, well, that's an altogether different situation. No one can know for sure how they will respond until it becomes a reality.

I went ahead with the open-heart surgery and now live with the cows' tissue in my heart, taking daily animal-tested medications.

I learnt from my medical emergency that life is a balance between two opposing forces. First, there's how we aspire to live in the world as vegans and animal rights advocates. Then, there's living in the reality of the world as it currently is and how it allows us to live. Living as a vegan is a journey, not a destination. Lines are drawn every day about what is and isn't permissible. Most of the issues we encounter each day are those we know how to respond to. But reality can present new challenges, including life or death.

In 50 years, I've witnessed much progress in freeing animals from our subjugation. The number of experiments on living animals in the UK, for example, has dropped from 5.5 million in 1976 to 2.5 million currently. I believe in 50 years this number will be reduced even further. Of course, whatever the number of animal experiments, that's still too many. I suspect, however, that if I were alive in 2076 and needed open-heart surgery, lab-grown tissue would be used to create the heart valve to replace the faulty one.

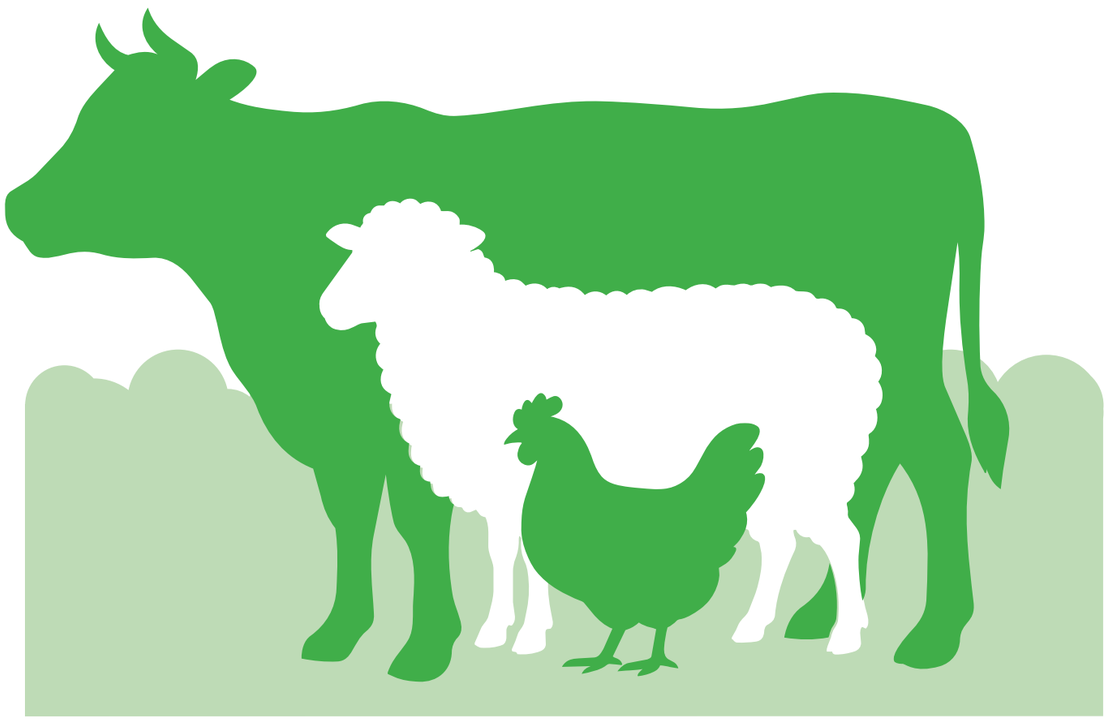
I have always viewed animal experimentation and animal agriculture as the two pillars of animal exploitation. If we could end them, the remaining areas of animal use would also be vulnerable to change. I'm confident that animal experimentation will end from scientific innovation driven by economic forces. As for animal agriculture, I think the climate crisis and economics will ensure its demise.

Economics is the key issue that will end animal experimentation and animal agriculture. Although I think our activism could be more effective in this area, I don't mean to suggest that the animal rights movement should focus exclusively on economic issues. Our mission is to encourage people to connect with animals as moral and political issues, and to inspire them to become vegans.

Reflecting on a life devoted to animals so far, I'm feeling surprisingly optimistic about the future. The next 50 years may well see the end of animal agriculture and animal experimentation. But there are mighty obstacles to overcome. First, we need to learn how to live in ways that nurture our physical, mental, and spiritual health. Second, we must learn to live on Earth respecting its finite resources. Third, the way we live as humans today deserves the descriptor *Homo stultus*—stupid human species. We could become *Homo sapiens* with all the intelligence necessary to live peacefully and compassionately on Earth. If these three aspirations can't be accomplished, human misery, animal exploitation, and environmental degradation will eventually result in global catastrophe.

Kim Stallwood, September 2026

According to the vegancalculator.com, in my 50 years as a vegan I have saved:



18,250

ANIMAL LIVES



50,864

SQUARE METERS OF FOREST

That's almost 255 full-sized tennis courts, at least 7 regular sized football pitches or enough space to park 2800 cars



75,992,105

LITRES OF WATER

That's nearly 30 olympic-sized swimming pools and as much water used by an entire town during any 24-hour period



165,561

KILOGRAMS OF CO2

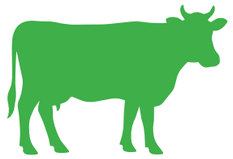
As heavy as 13 London buses, 28 African elephants, nearly 7 London tube train carriages or 1 very large blue whale



331,122

KILOGRAMS OF GRAIN

That's the weight of a partially loaded Boeing 747, 80 adult male Hippopotamuses or 25 times the weight of Big Ben



80 Billion

Approximately 80,000,000,000
farmed animals are reared
for food in the world each year



Ducks and geese raised for meat
often live in unsanitary
conditions, including force-feeding



Two thirds of farmed animals in the
world, and 99% in the United States
are reared on a factory farm.



Approximately 450,000 calves
are reared for veal in the
United States each year



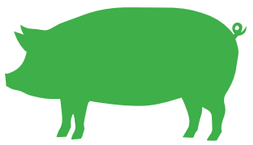
Turkeys are frequently subjected
to painful procedures, including beak
trimming without anaesthesia



260 million Male chicks are killed
annually in the US upon hatching as
they have no economic value.



Factory-farmed fish crowded
into small tanks suffer from diseases,
parasites, and stress.



800m

800 Million pigs are raised for food
each year, including 110m
in the US and 680m in China



More than 90 per cent
of the world's chicken meat
comes from factory farms.



Battery chickens are kept in
cages so small that they can't
even epread their wings.



Global meat production causes
more greenhouse gas emissions
than global transport



More than 400,000 animals die
annually in fires on factory farms
in the United States.

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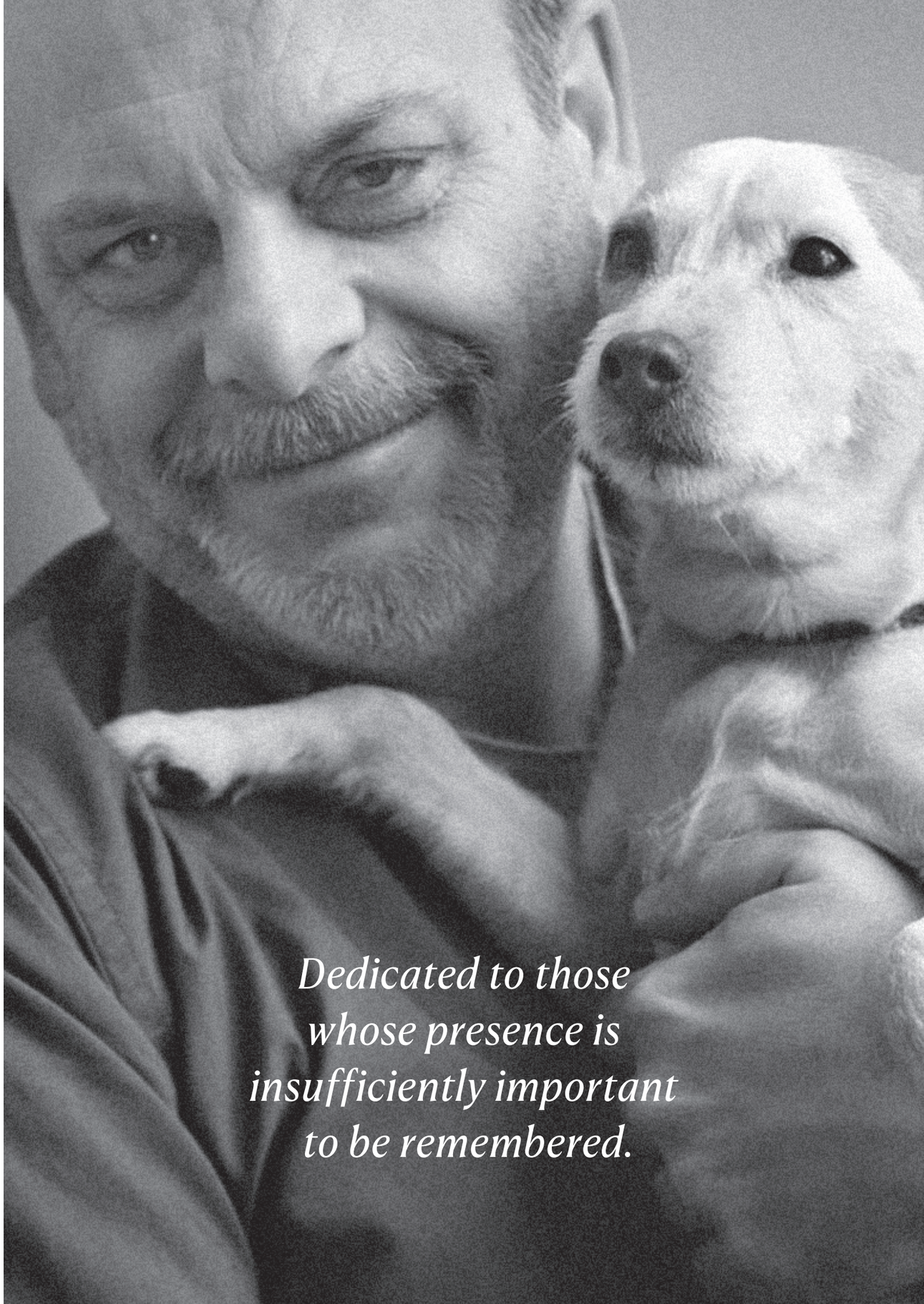
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@kim_stallwood

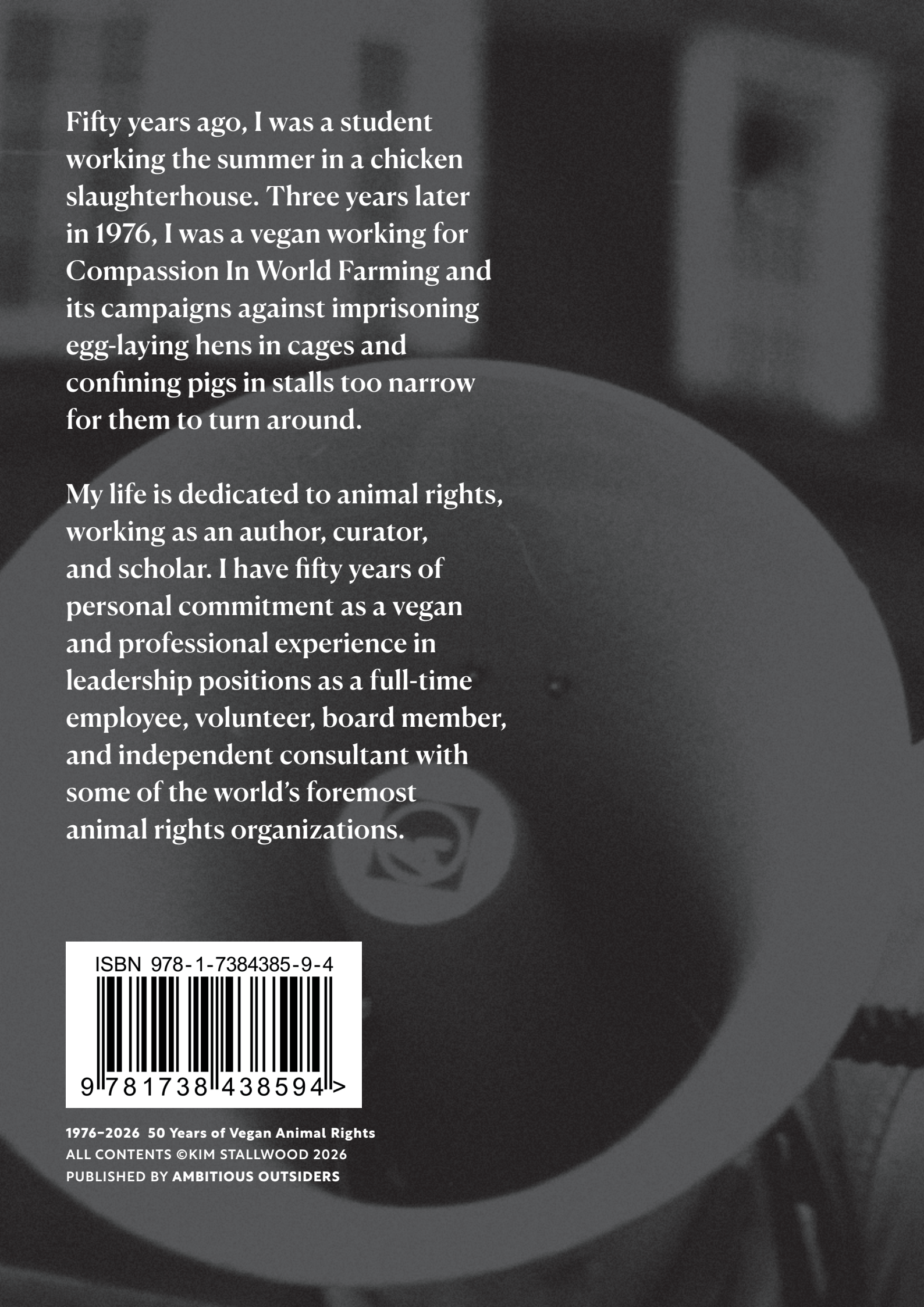
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KW Stallwood

Animal Rights Author, Scholar, and Curator





Fifty years ago, I was a student working the summer in a chicken slaughterhouse. Three years later in 1976, I was a vegan working for Compassion In World Farming and its campaigns against imprisoning egg-laying hens in cages and confining pigs in stalls too narrow for them to turn around.

My life is dedicated to animal rights, working as an author, curator, and scholar. I have fifty years of personal commitment as a vegan and professional experience in leadership positions as a full-time employee, volunteer, board member, and independent consultant with some of the world's foremost animal rights organizations.

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