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Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company (Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd. It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

Hi,

Main reason for writing is to tell you that over the next couple of weeks I am going to be busy on some outstanding admin work and also out of the office for several days. For some of the time I will be out of mobile coverage (not uncommon in Scotland) so if you have an urgent reason to contact me you might be best sending a text which I should be able to pick-up at some point during the day.

If you would like to catch up on some of the things I have been doing in the last few weeks (September was a very busy month) why not spend a few minutes checking out the News pages of the Animal Concern website? Some interesting items on there about various campaigns and some perhaps controversial news if you are a supporter of the Scottish SPCA.

Other things you might be interested in:

Campaigners in Aberdeen are keeping the pressure on the Escale France fur store in the town. You can help by signing the petition

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-selling-real-fur-escale-france> or, if you are in the Aberdeenshire area, supporting forthcoming demos (two this week including a picket outside the shop on Friday 21st Oct from 2pm to 5pm) and getting involved with the campaign by contacting Suz Reid: suzreid2022@gmail.com or via their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1376063225756713/>

Our colleagues over at OneKind in Edinburgh are organising a picket of the Scottish Parliament on November 17th to protest over the culling (for that read unnecessary mass slaughter) of mountain hares. When I was a lot younger and a lot fitter I spent many wonderful winter weekends walking in the Scottish mountains. We knew we were getting close to our favourite camp site in the Cairngorms when the headlights picked up the ghostly white shapes of mountain hares browsing at the side of the road. It sickens me to see photographs of hundreds of white corpses of mountain hares shot by people who are not out for a bit of free range meat for the pot but are out to kill as many hares as they can in the bizarre belief that by doing so they will reduce the number of ticks which might attach to young grouse before the paying guns get a chance to blast them out of the sky. Perhaps I am naive but if you reduce the number of hares the ticks are going to have to find alternative hosts to feed from and grouse chicks might fit the bill nicely. Of course if the hare shooting parasite persecutors took their weird reasoning to its logical conclusion they would be shooting much bigger white targets on the Scottish mountains. If they did that shepherds and

farmers might start culling the cullers! To find out more about the November 17th protest please visit this link:

<https://raptorpersecutionscotland.wordpress.com/2016/10/17/stop-killing-mountain-hares-protest-at-scottish-parliament-17-november-2016/> While there I urge you to sign up to the Raptor Persecution UK Blog which is essential reading.

Earlier this year you may have seen video footage showing live fox cubs being taken into the kennels of the South Herefordshire Hunt. From the sounds heard from inside the building we must assume the cubs were thrown live to the pack of fox hounds. The lifeless body of one cub is dumped into a wheelie bin and then another is taken into the kennels to meet the same fate. There is a petition calling for those responsible to be prosecuted. Please sign it: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/takeaction/585/334/658/?z00m=28481389&redirectID=2209099641>

The Japanese have their own version of the Icelandic grind where dolphins are driven ashore and cruelly hacked to death. Thankfully there is a growing animal welfare/rights movement in Japan for which I firmly believe the Save Our Seals Fund can take a little of the credit as our Fiona of the Seals has made many appearances on peak time Japanese TV shows. Excerpts from her book "Seal" have been part of the Japanese school curriculum for over twenty years. You can do your bit to support your fellow activists in Japan by signing this petition:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/703/054/124/?z00m=28474869&redirectID=2210243830>

Remember my advice about signing petitions. No petition needs your phone number. If you give your number expect calls from professional fundraisers trying to get you to sign-up to a Bank Standing Order or Direct Debit. Also you don't have to respond to the "Give Us Your Money" pop-ups on every petition you sign.

Talking about money. If you are not a Member of Animal Concern you can join on our website (£2 for under 16s, a fiver if you are not in full-time work, a tenner if you are in gainful employment and if you have a few bob to spare £100 one-off payment for Life Membership). No need to sign up for a monthly Direct Debit or Standing Order though we wouldn't turn that down! What we really need is to increase our number of Members so if you could join it would be appreciated. If you're not in a position to join don't worry as non-members are always welcome on our e-mail list.

Cheers 4 now,

John

PS Just heard that the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) have decided to investigate my complaint (via SOSF) that the current Aldi "Amazing" series of TV ads is misleading the public by showing their "RSPCA Assured" salmon swimming freely in the wild when in fact they are reared in the confines of floating factory farm net cages. I reported this to the ASA on the 16th September and it was the 18th October before they decided to take the

complaint forward by raising it with the advertiser to see if they can come to an agreement by which they mean Aldi agreeing to withdraw the advert or at least edit out the piece about the salmon. Quite frankly that is not good enough. Tens of millions of people will already have seen this extremely misleading advert and millions more will see it before it runs its course or is quietly withdrawn leaving the public with the impression that Aldi sell wild Scottish salmon and not salmon produced in floating factory fish farms. Look out for more about this on the Animal Concern website news pages in the next few days.