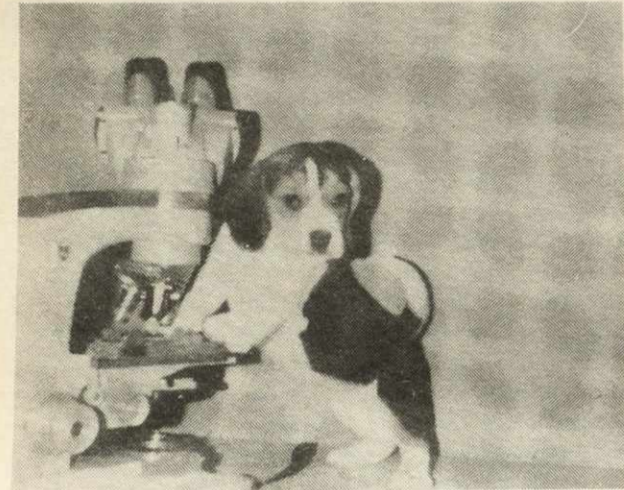


# Peace - Issues

## Pets! Small, cuddly and fit for testing

In this day and age when countless atrocities are occurring world-wide, we that live in a relatively safe and sane country often become de-sensitized to suffering that occurs in other parts of the world. The famine in Somalia, the "ethnic cleansing" that has occurred in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the riots and raids that occur in South Africa, and countless other events often make us glad that we are able to live in an environment free from such hardship. Yet, unseen beneath the surface of economic and political well-being, atrocities of a different kind are occurring right in our midst.



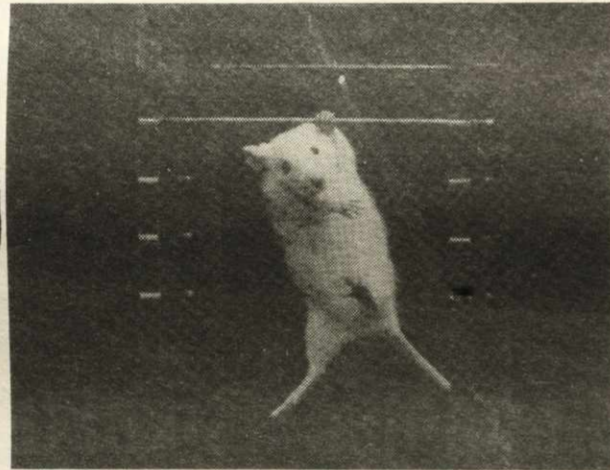
Imagine arriving home one day to find your dog missing from the yard. Or waking up one morning to find that the cat did not return home for breakfast after her usual night of prowling, never to be seen again. Imagine, then, reading that it is not uncommon for pets to be poached from neighbourhoods and sold to laboratories for live experimentation. Finally, if that were not enough, imagine that your pet is not being used for medical purposes, which is a hugely debated subject, but that some company is using it to test one of their new products.

A friend of mine recently worked at the Toronto Humane Society, and so I had access to videotapes that showed an unedited look at some of these gruesome occurrences. As a pet owner and animal lover I was nothing short of horrified. I saw footage of cleaners, toiletries and chemicals being poured into the eyes of cats and rabbits. I saw "lethal dose" tests where dogs were given a prescribed amount of a substance and if that amount resulted in the death of the animal, then the next victim was given a slightly lesser amount to see if that amount was also lethal (if the dog failed to die, the amount was increased). Pictures of cats with electrodes implanted in their skulls still haunt me, pictures that I can only liken to pictures of Hitler's concentration camps that I had seen earlier in my life. Some animals had

their skin peeled back so that lipstick and other facial make-up could be applied upon the raw flesh to determine its level of "irritancy". Others are subjected to contact with chemical household products that burn them for days without any hope of relief. Further investigation on the topic has yielded the most unfortunate aspect of all: results from most of these tests are not applicable to humans, since our skin and eyes, and reactions to these substances greatly differ from those animals upon which these products are tested.

To anyone who has ever had a pet, or who at least believes that these creatures are autonomous, sentient beings, this reality may be especially disturbing, but surely anyone with a sensitivity toward the non-human world should be able to discern that subjecting any creature to such tests is both inhumane and immoral. So before you next put on your make-up, cologne, shampoo, or any other product to which daily use has become second-nature, consider the possibility that animals were blinded with the substance in tests which are generally not applicable to how humans would react when contacted by the same substance. Or contemplate the senseless suffering experienced by animals who have had their skin peeled away, their reactions to be observed as they writhed in pain.

Consumers have been fooled for a long, long time by companies who have convinced us that our lives will be better if we use their products. The time has come to stop supporting such companies that needlessly torture our friends,



our companions, our family. Find out if you are contributing to these atrocious, hideous crimes, and if you are, find out what products you can use that have not been used to punish innocent animals for results that are irrelevant. We as humans will never be able to find peace among ourselves if we fail to first recognize and cease our exploitation of non-human animals for purposes that are ethically unjustifiable

and, coincidentally, largely inapplicable. There are now many products on the market that use effective, humane alternatives to animal testing and make this clear by stating right on the product, "Not tested on animals". These are the companies to support. If what you are now using does not say this, the unfortunate reality is that it probably has been tested on animals.

~ Steve Mills



during belief's intermission there was

One curled asleep  
inside a bag of wheat and smiling,

one curved too deep  
beyond us  
in the sliding,

one curled asleep  
before  
a T.V.

One passed out, rum,  
dream broken, black out broke  
the aquarium,

one curled before  
a cave.

Christ's cosine mind  
arched over a well of sin

or staring  
at rum on the T.V, in the cave,  
unlike us in his quiet.

Graham Touchie

The snow falls down here today  
(what other way can it fall?)  
creating a coat for the earth,  
a blanket made of coldness.  
For weeks we have planned for this  
and brought our flowers in from the cold  
and burned the leaves to feed the grass  
that will be asleep soon.

And we have bought boots and coats,  
so that we may safely venture into the world  
and see its dormant beauty.  
But, as much as we will soon complain  
it will go soon enough,  
and be a memory, a dream.

The snow falls down in Texas today  
(what other way can it fall?)  
surprising the earth  
and those who did not bring in their plants  
or buy their boots.  
But, for all their inconvenience,  
it will go soon enough,  
and be a memory, a dream.

The snow falls down in Sarajevo today  
(does anyone know?)  
and it is no surprise.  
They have expected this,  
but how could they make themselves ready?  
There are no plants left,  
and nowhere to get clothes,  
and leaves will feed nobody.  
But for all their suffering  
and of it will go soon enough  
and be a memory, a dream.

Giallano Valentino

## VOWing to halt human rights abuses in former Yugoslavia

Voice of Women Nova Scotia is beginning a letter-writing and lobbying campaign on behalf of the estimated 20,000 women in the former Yugoslavia who have been raped by troops as an act of war.

at the request of both Croatian and Serbian women, VOW is focussing part of its campaign on calling for the UN to amend the 1949 Geneva Convention to treat organized rape as a war crime and to put in place an independent international court responsible for hearing evidence on crimes against women.

The UN already estimates that, in addition to the 100,000 already killed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, two and a half million people have been forced from their homes. Eighty percent are thought to be women and children. "There is now extensive evidence that a crucial part of the "ethnic cleansing" campaign involves systematic rape of Bosnian Muslim women, often in camps deliberately set up for that purpose," says VOW spokeswoman, Donna Smyth. "In one way this is nothing new. Rape has always been an integral part of war. It appears that this is part of a calculated campaign, not only to destroy the lives of individual women, but their entire culture, and that Serbian soldiers are actually acting under orders to rape Muslim women."

VOW is also lobbying the Canadian Government to recognize that many women of the former Yugoslavia claiming refugee status are survivors of state-sponsored rape and that their refugee claims should be treated accordingly. "So far, refugee hearings seem to be treating Yugoslav women's experience of rape as individual cases and differentiating between rape and other methods of torture and humiliation used against political prisoners".

People who would like to write letters lobbying the Canadian government or urging the UN to treat rape as a war crime can obtain relevant addresses by phoning either 423-3887 or 425-0563.

Received from  
VOW: AGAINST THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF WOMEN  
from Independent Women's House Zagreb, Croatia  
women members of Anti-war campaign Croatia  
Women in Black - Serbia  
S.O.S. Line for Battered Women, Serbia

Embittered about the very fact the sexual abuse of women is possible at all, and that these days it has become the regular practice during the war in these areas, the perverse "proof" of the warrior's power and the conqueror's strategy, and that the rapists are already absolved of every responsibility for their crimes, we

1. Demand that all war camps throughout former Yugoslavia be immediately closed, especially those in which women are exposed to sexual abuse by soldiers, to psychological torture and the worst forms of psychological and physical abuse, violence and humiliation;
2. Demand that rape be treated as a war crime and therefore demand that the 3rd section of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 regarding the legal protection of women war victims be changed;
3. Demand the establishment of an independent international court whose responsibility would be to punish those who are responsible for and who have committed such crimes against women;

Hello world  
I've brushed my hair for you  
my feet are bare for you  
I've perfumed my skin with lazy petals-

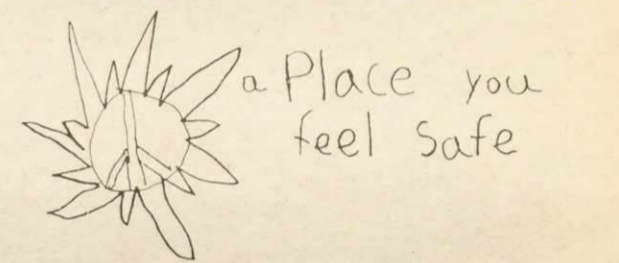
crushed underheel.  
My dress is white for you  
my walk is light for you

I'm growing wings and blowing kisses.  
I'll sing my song for you  
I only have one song you see

I know it off by heart  
I hope its words will colour roses  
I hope its true describes delight

and if the end  
falls down like starfishes  
then that's the sign  
I've sung it right.

Hello world  
please kiss my eyelids  
Goodbye world  
Please smooth my hair  
I thank you world  
your nights were sunny  
and in one blink  
I found you rare.



4. Appeal to all international and nongovernmental women's organizations, to peace groups and to women's groups, to form independent teams of women as soon as possible in order to help organizing Rape Crisis Centres for psychological and financial help and support to these raped women; as for governments operating in these areas, we expect their help and co-operation, according to their authorities and International Conventions.

This protest has been sent to:  
European Parliament  
UN Commission for Human Rights  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
various international women's organizations  
Croatian Parliament  
Ministry of Health of the Croatian Government  
Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Government of Serbia

To demand that rape be documented as a war crime write to:  
Professor Frits Karhoven, Chairman  
Commission of Experts on former Yugoslavia,  
UN, Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland, 1211

The Croatian Women's group Trensjevka is working to open a support centre for wartime rape victims, to contribute to Trensjevka's centre, write to:  
Nina Kadic  
Trensjevka Women's group  
Mlinarska 71  
Zagreb, Croatia