

# NORFOLK SAFE – AN INTRODUCTION AND PROFILE

**Introduction** Norfolk SAFE covers all animal rights issues in Norfolk, North Suffolk and the Waveney Valley. The acronym SAFE stands for ‘Saving Animals From Exploitation’. The group was formed in 1999 when a former group, the Norwich Animals Charter folded, following the achievement of its objective to persuade Norwich City Council to adopt an ‘animals charter’. Members of this former organisation teamed up with those of the longer established Norwich Anti-Bloodsports group to form SAFE.

**Local campaigning** Since 1999, SAFE has become Norfolk’s foremost animal rights group and has been instrumental in numerous local campaigns to save animals and birds from exploitation and cruelty. Notable achievements include campaigns to save Dereham’s Neatherd Moor ducks from extensive culling by the local council, Southwold’s Gun Hill rabbits from a similar fate and more recently, the foiling of attempts to cull deer in Foxley Woods in mid Norfolk and Bacton Woods in the north east of the county. Successful protests have also been launched against Peter Jay’s circus in Great Yarmouth, a long time exploiter of large wild animals in its acts. Also in Great Yarmouth, the plight of racing greyhounds has been brought to the public’s attention on various occasions by the staging of demonstrations on race nights outside the Caister Road stadium. A video recently produced by VIVA! highlighting cruel and barbaric poultry farming practices on a farm near the village of Horsford, a few miles north of Norwich, resulted in SAFE mounting a very successful demonstration against the farmer outside his premises. Nearly always, these local campaigns have attracted the attention of the local media, thus giving more weight to our beliefs that animals should not be killed or exploited to satisfy the ever increasing demands of the human race.

**National campaigns** SAFE is heavily involved in supporting important national campaigns to close Huntingdon Life Sciences (SHAC), Newchurch Guinea Pig Breeders (SNGP) and opposing Cambridge and Oxford University’s plans to establish new primate experimentation centres in their respective cities (SPEAC & SPEAK).

**Bloodsports** On the bloodsports front, SAFE has a small but very committed band of hunt monitors who have been very successful in saving the lives of numerous foxes and other species of our local wildlife, persecuted in the name of ‘sport’ by packs of hounds and evil gangs of mounted barbarians.

**Sanctuaries** Many SAFE members maintain good relations with local animal sanctuaries, and are actively involved in helping to rebuild decaying facilities, cleaning out kennels and cages, exercising dogs and all important fund raising.

**Information stall** SAFE has a very successful and highly visual information stall covering all aspects of animal rights, from hunting to the fur trade and circuses to vivisection. It is sometimes situated in Norwich’s busy Hay Hill on a Saturday, attracting much attention from the shopping public. Many hundreds of signatures are collected on petitions for local and national animal rights causes.

**Public meetings** From time to time, SAFE organises public meetings and debates to focus attention on important animal rights issues. Eminent speakers from local and national campaigns and organisations are invited to expose the stark truth behind the many myths and lies which have been generated by powerful vested interests who wallow in profit and greed, caring little or nothing about the cruelty and suffering inflicted on innocent animals and the long term harm caused to their fellow human beings by their fraudulent ‘science’ and evil practices. Notable speakers have included Geoffrey Thomas, chief spokesperson for the Dr Hadwen Trust, Juliet Gellatley, director of VIVA!, and Mike Huskisson, leader of the Halesworth based Animal Cruelty Investigation Group (ACIG).

**Meetings** These take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Roxley Hall, Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich (1/4 mile from Thunder Lane junction towards Gt Yarmouth). All who share our views and would like to know more are most welcome to attend.

**Newsletter** SAFE publishes a monthly newsletter entitled ‘*Norfolk SAFE News*’ which is available free to all members.

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