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Hi,

At the end of this e-mail are links to an anti-vivisection petition which I hope you will sign and a Westminster Parliament Early Day Motion which I hope you will ask your MP to sign.

You may have noticed that I have not been circulating many of these petition and campaign appeals lately as I am trying to concentrate on my work for Animal Concern, Animal Concern Advice Line, Save Our Seals Fund and Ethical Promotions Ltd. I had to go to Edinburgh for a couple of days last month and then I took a few days off and I came back to a huge backlog of e-mails and letters. I'm slowly catching up but my apologies if you have been waiting for a reply from me or if you sent a donation and it has not yet been banked. That side of things should be up to date by later today.

If you want to keep up with other campaigns and the hundreds of petitions which are circulating I suggest you get on the e-mail lists of those groups whose campaigns you support along with the mega internet lobby groups such as 38 Degrees and Care 2. Some of our supporters also circulate news story links and animal campaign links on a daily basis. If you want details of those contact me.

Remember that it does not really cost anything for a group to put you on their e-mail list. Just having you there as a supporter is important and if you respond to just one or two calls for action each year by sending a protest letter or e-mail you are really helping. However I urge you to be wary of those groups who send you more begging letters than calls for action. Also watch out for those who ask you to give your phone number when you sign a petition. There is every likelihood you will be called within 48 hours by a professional fundraiser trying to get you to sign up to a monthly standing order from which the first year's contributions go to the fundraising company.

Sadly you must also be wary of straightforward internet scams. In May I was contacted by a scammer wanting to pay for a "Good Homes Wanted" advert in our newsletter or e-mail list. I like to think I'm a bit of an expert on spotting scams (that's me going to get heavily ripped-off next week!) and I recognised this one right away. The advertiser wanted to find good homes for two young Yorkshire Terriers. I contacted him and he claimed he had them at an address in London. Strange as he said they were registered with the American Kennel Club. He was offering them "free to good homes". The way this scam works is that someone offers to adopt the dogs and the scammer says they are actually in another country and although free he needs say £500 to have them air freighted to you. Once you send the £500 he comes back for another £500 to cover veterinary checks and a pet passport. If he can get just 0.1% of the people who read his ads to respond the scammer can make a lot of money. I offered to set-up this scammer by publishing a fake newsletter and e-mail and tried to get several police forces to take him on by responding to the ad but no-one wanted to get involved. No doubt this scammer has placed his ad elsewhere and is robbing good people who want to rescue these non-existing dogs.

Incidentally in recent years I've exposed three police forces (including a serious crime department of an English force) for circulating internet hoaxes as facts. One officer even issued a press release with details of crimes which he later admitted to me had never happened!

You can pick up news of some of the work I do from the Animal Concern website which we are bringing back to life. It is very much a work in progress but once it is up and running the ACAL website will also be brought back into service. The Save Our Seals Fund website is also running again ([www.saveoursealsfund.org](http://www.saveoursealsfund.org)) so please visit there for news on the seals front and to find a link to the SOSF Facebook page.

Cheers 4 now,

John

PETITION: Animal Experiments are at a record high - we call for the introduction of a fee-per-animal used to increase funding into alternative testing methods. Responsible department: Home Office  
Closing date: 2.12.14

<https://submissions.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/57611/signature/new>

Incidentally Animal Experiments are NOT at a record high. There were 4.12 million experiments using animals in Great Britain in 2013. This is 4.12 million too many and a rise of 1.41 million since 1995. However the number of experiments peaked in the mid 1980s with a figure of around 5.7 million experiments. What is true is that scientific procedures on living animals are at their highest level since the introduction of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Early Day Motion 199 expresses a similar wish. Go to this link to see if your MP has signed: <http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/199> If s/he has not signed I suggest you go to this site: <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/mps/> and from there e-mail your MP along these lines:

Dear .....,

Two things have come to my attention this week. The Home Office has announced that the number of experiments carried out on live animals in the UK is continuing to rise with over 4,100,000 animals being used in scientific procedures last year. I also discovered that Early Day Motion 199, which was raised over a year ago in response to the last rise in animal experiments, has only been signed by 50 Members of Parliament. At the time of writing you are not one of them. Making those who use animals in research pay towards the development of non-animal research methods could result in a huge decrease in the number of animals experimented on and produce safer research techniques of more relevance to humans.

I am a supporter of the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which has been campaigning for the abolition of animal experiments and the introduction of cruelty-free non animal alternatives since 1876. We are now well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century yet we are still using research methods which Queen Victoria was opposed to. Help bring research out of the dark ages. Please sign EDM 199 today.

Yours sincerely,