

E-mail from: John F. Robins, Company Secretary & Campaigns Consultant,
Animal Concern Ltd, Post Office Box 5178, Dumbarton G82 5YJ.
Tel. 01389-841-639, Mobile: 07721-605521.

E-mail: john@jfrobins.force9.co.uk website: <http://www.animalconcern.org/>
Animal Concern Ltd is a Registered Scottish Charity (No. SC050422)

and a registered non-profit making Limited Company (Co. No. SC109126)

Established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Limited we changed our name to
Animal Concern in 1992 as several of our campaigns were international.

We incorporate the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

To supporters of Animal Concern, Animal Concern Advice Line and Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society.
Please feel free to pass on this communication to anyone you genuinely feel will be interested.

Hi All,

This is just a brief e-mail to tell you that changes are coming at Animal Concern. As you know I'm reaching retirement age and my health has not been so good recently.

I'm pleased to tell you that we have found replacements to take over from me from January next year. They started working for Animal Concern on 1st September and I'm sure that before the end of this year they will be fully up to speed on how things run.

You may have heard of our new CEO who is working under the title Campaigns Manager until the end of the year. He's Don Staniford, globally recognised as the leading campaigner against intensive salmon farms. Don, under his Scottish Salmon Watch campaign, has exposed shockingly cruel conditions at numerous salmon farms in Scotland. Animal Concern has helped fund some of Don's work and that work will continue as Scottish Salmon Watch becomes an Animal Concern Campaign. We have fought against salmon farming since the 1980s and with Don's hard-hitting strategy of going in and filming the terrible condition of the fish in the cage nets we will have a far greater chance of winning the war against these filthy floating factory fish farms.

Don will be widening his brief to include all animals - not just salmon. He brings over 20 years of campaigning experience to the role and he will be writing to you soon to get your views on which animal issues you think we should focus on over the coming months.

Don features in the new film 'Eating Our Way to Extinction' - narrated by Kate Winslet - which will be screened in selected UK cinemas on 16 & 20 September. You can also see Don in Netflix's 'Seaspiracy' and contact him direct via don@animalconcern.org

Keep an eye out for media coverage of some secret filming Don has been doing since he started with us.

The other half of our new team is Elena Edwards. She is currently learning the ropes as Membership Secretary and all being well she will take over my role as Company Secretary in the new year. Don is also Elena's other half! Don and Elena met over a decade ago while campaigning on behalf of wild salmon in Canada. They have since married and are raising their two lovely children to be future environmentalist / animal welfare activists. Like Don and Elena their children are also experienced campaigners and are excited about campaigning for animals on behalf of Animal Concern. I hope they are just as excited when Mum & Dad ask them to help stick the stamps on the next Animal Concern newsletter. Perhaps other Members with young children might want to establish a youth group?

At the moment Don is working for us full-time and Elena part-time. They will be working from home which keeps overheads and commuting down. As you know I have been building up some reserve funds so that any new employee could feel safe in the knowledge that we can pay their wages for the next year or so.

However we need to be able to fund our staff and campaigns for many years to come. To do that we must increase our support base. Don and Elena will be making that a priority. There will be changes. There must be changes to attract more members. Don and Elena will be writing to you soon with their new ideas and asking for your ideas of how you want Animal Concern to evolve.

And what about me I don't hear anyone ask. Health permitting I'll remain on full-time until the end of the year to get this year's books completed for audit and try to pass on some of my knowledge without passing on my many failings.

Again health and domestic situation permitting I'm hoping to stay on for another year in a part-time capacity doing mainly campaign work but also giving our newbies advice if they ask for it. I am very aware that our new starts have got to get on with it and, under the guidance of your Board, make their mark on the next phase of our 145 years of campaigning for exploited animals.

If you give them the support and encouragement you have given me the future of Animal Concern will be secure.

Cheers4now,

John

PS. You won't be hearing so much from me in future though I hope I'll be permitted the occasional rant. It's now time for me to slowly fade into the background just like an old fart should.