



P.O. Box 9522
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Phone: (703) 562-5160

Website: www.animalagalliance.org

Email: info@animalagalliance.org

KEEPING YOUR FACILITY SECURE – A GUIDE FOR VEAL GROWERS AND ALLIED INDUSTRY –

Introduction

The following information will provide a general overview of activist activities to be aware of, as well as some general guidance in protecting yourself, your animals and your facility. Security protocols must be in place and should address these three main areas: a) intelligence gathering, b) business disruptions and harassment, and c) property protection and personal security.

Keep in mind that activists do not target growers with all of these types of activities; however, they may target other segments of the veal industry, such as feed industry companies or packers/purveyors, with these tactics.

Three Types of Activist Activities

Intelligence Gathering - To obtain information to use in disparaging public relations campaigns, lobbying or litigation. Some of the most prevalent problems have included activists posing as:

Students/educators seeking tours, photo opportunities, employment—upon investigation, they are found to not be registered at or employed by the school.

Media (including film producers) requesting contacts for tours and photo opportunities—found to not be employed with the named or any media outlet and/or they arrive unannounced and without an appointment. Media requests, in general, filter through the AVA office. Any media request would typically be scheduled through the AVA.

Government or animal control inspectors — when asked, they cannot provide credentials (e.g. badge or photo ID card), or upon questioning, they prove to be unknowledgeable about farm animals.

Animal "welfare" organization representatives befriending industry saying they want to work toward a common goal to ensure good animal care or to seek common ground—they sound reasonable and thereby gain your trust simply to obtain information and photos—their "evidence" used in campaigns to raise funds and damage the reputation of a company or industry, or to pressure a company through allegations of cruelty or abuse via the media.

Unannounced tourists taking videos, photographs or "unescorted tours."

Job applicants applying for legitimate jobs in order to gain company access.

Survey companies requesting information for confidential clients.

Disruptions/Harassment – the intent is to force change and/or generate publicity.

Demonstrations, picketing other types of protests — usually at businesses, but happening more often at an employee's home.

Harassing phone calls

Internet and E-mail viruses or security breaches

Disparaging campaigns, including advertising, leafleting, post-carding, calls for boycotts, letters-to-the-editor and other means to embarrass or coerce companies/organizations/individuals

Product tampering, such as poison threats or product defacing

Bomb threats to farm, distribution, retail, and research facilities

Litigation for claims of animal cruelty

Property Protection and Personal Safety

Mail and telephone intimidation, including hate messages and threats of action or harm made against a company or individual

Vandalism and property destruction — intended to cause economic damage and intimidation

Break-ins and burglary, including theft or release of animals, theft or destruction of information or research, tampering with computer systems

Personal injury — threats or attacks directed against individuals, such as booby-trapped mail, firebombs or car bombs

What You Can Do...

NEVER AGREE to a suspicious request until it is verified. Whenever possible, require that requests for sensitive information/tours be in writing. Never provide information over the phone (it can be misinterpreted or misconstrued)--reply in writing. Obtain as much information as possible, e.g. name, phone number, address, reason for request, what will the person be doing with the information, who else may have been contacted, etc. Ask if you may receive a copy of the final report once it is completed. Contact the AVA office at 717/985-9125 to verify all requests.

ENSURE ACCESS to the facility is controlled. Establish check-in procedures for visitors. Place appropriate signs noting such procedures, and require visitors to sign in and out upon entering and leaving facility. Use visitor identification badges.

ESCORT VISITORS (especially photographers/videographers) at all times through facility. Employees should be instructed to report all unescorted visitors to the appropriate person immediately.

MAINTAIN BASIC SECURITY: Lock doors/file cabinets/computers; use security lighting/alarms; maintain fencing and gates; post signs indicating restricted areas/no trespassing, etc.

THOROUGHLY SCREEN all job applicants. Watch for unusual behavior such as staying unusually late, arriving unusually early, accessing files/information/other areas of the facility outside of their department/responsibility, removing documents from site, asking questions on sensitive subjects, possession of a camera or video on-site, not mixing socially with other employees; note mode of dress (i.e., no leather or make-up, in keeping with the animal rights philosophy).

INFORM EMPLOYEES in vulnerable areas that surveillance or infiltration is a possibility. Any suspicious activity should be reported to supervisors or the appropriate person immediately.

REPORT ALL suspicious and/or illegal incidents to local police. Establish contact and good working relationships with the appropriate authorities.

WATCH FOR warning signs that you may be a target. General patterns include: An increase in requests for animal specific information or on-farm tours; calls/letters questioning/criticizing your business or particular practices; harassing calls/letters; unusual vehicles/people near facilities; increase in media attention to issues relating to your business, and special interest group campaigns locally.

MAKE IT KNOWN you will prosecute to the full extent of the law.

Create A Contact List

Locate, and post, the phone numbers of the following groups and individuals. In the event of an activist incident, these organizations, particularly the local police, will be very helpful.

- Phone Numbers
- Local Police:
- Personal Lawyer:
- Local/State Farm Bureau:
- Local or State Association

All of the above recommendations are merely preparation plans. In reality, there is a very small chance your facility will be targeted. Operate under the philosophy though that it's better to be prepared for the worst while you expect only the best.