

ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

NATIONAL OFFICE: 333 Market Street, Suite 2300, San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Friend:

I want to invite you to participate in the first-ever "National Survey on Animal Rights".

It is the "first" such Survey, not because the issue is unimportant. Rather, after years of quiet support by a small group of activists, it has finally captured the attention of the media, the government and the public.

I have enclosed your copy of the special Survey, sponsored by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), and hope you will take a few minutes, now, to provide your opinions and express your views about this vitally important issue.

Please don't think that your responses to this Survey aren't important to us, or that millions of other people will be receiving this Survey, too. That just isn't so.

In fact, this Survey is only being sent to a relatively small number of people, most of whom, like you, have a long-standing interest in animal protection and wildlife conservation.

It is very important for us to have the opinions of other people concerned with animal protection, so we can judge how the general public will perceive this issue. Your answers will help guide ALDF in determining its programs and goals in 1985.

However, before you pick up a pencil and answer the Survey, I'd like to give you some important information about the animal rights movement, so you will see just why your responses are so important to us.

Without question, "animal rights" is fast becoming one of the most dominant legal and ethical concerns of the 1980s. And well it should be.

Animals -- domestic, wildlife, laboratory and farm -- are frequently loved, usually tolerated, and often abused.

For literally centuries, civilizations have treated animals as "property", to be used at the whim of the owner, without regard for the fact that animals experience pain and suffering, too.

Then, in the mid-19th Century, the first humane treatment laws in the United States were established which recognized that animals were entitled to proper care, treatment and dispatch.

In the United States, the growth of humane treatment laws, although frequently inadequate, has been widespread and almost every community has enforceable laws which require acceptable standards for the care and treatment of many animals.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund's concerns go beyond the old notion that only certain

(over, please)

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