

Animal



Actors

of Hollywood

*"Home of Elsa the Born Free Lioness"*

W. Carlisle Rd.  
Woodland Oaks, California 91361

Telephone: 805 - 495-2122  
Hubert G. Wells, Manager

April 18, 1988

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have known Pat Derby since 1967. At that time Pat and her then husband Ted were subrenting space from Jungleland for their animals.

I was also familiar with their training methods, or rather lack of them. On one occasion (The Red Skelton Show) I was present when they were asked to leave due to, in my opinion, embarrassingly bad performance and working style.

Since Pat could not succeed as a movie trainer, she became an active member of the animal protection industry.

In 1975 she introduced Sue Pressman of the H.S.U.S. as a movie producer to Frank Inn, the late George Toth, Ron Oxley and myself, a misrepresentation to say the least. Among others Pressman requested we tie a wolf temporarily in the sun so that she could take a better picture of it for her upcoming movie. The resulting "Expose" appeared in that famous clarion of truth "The National Enquirer" claiming us as cruel trainers tormenting the wolf in the blazing sun.

Just recently I have viewed a Canadian T.V. show "The Fifth Estate" where Pat Derby gave misleading, incorrect, and in my opinion hateful accusations against her former colleagues in the motion picture industry.

Her actions preclude any fair or unbiased treatment towards this group of highly qualified, severely controlled and supervised group of tax paying professionals. In my opinion to have Pat Derby on the Fish and Game Commission Board is an intolerable situation, and I recommend her immediate removal.

*H. G. Wells*

SHIRLEY KEITH

7 April, 1989

Dear Sled

Sorry I was delayed for a short time. I started to continue with the narrative, but it's too long - most of it not pertinent. Some of the following might direct your effort in new directions. If you and your lawyer find anything that sounds hopeful, don't hesitate to call on me.

\* \* \* \* \*

1972 - Orphans of the Wild got off to a good start by April 1972. Another friend and I put in the money to get the non-profit account opened and we elected officers. I asked not to be included on the Board of Directors, but would continue as a volunteer. A friend of mine agreed to act as treasurer\*, and two business friends as advisors. (\*I can give you her name, but she doesn't remember much about those few weeks.)

She would handle donation income and outgo only with the understanding that her signature would have to appear on all transactions. It was so agreed. She emphasized she would do nothing to jeopardize her bonded integrity. She resigned when we found that Pat had opened a separate account under the non-profit name of Orphans of the Wild, with only her signature required, and was diverting donations for her own use. (The only person that might have information is George Kalosky, then a vice president of that bank. He isn't listed in the phone book, but I believe is still active here.)

As fund-raiser, Pat and Ted often took money from donation cans to buy lunch for the volunteers. Ted worried when I objected, they told me they'd replace it later. I don't know if it was. At this time Pat instructed everyone that we were answerable only to her. That Ted had no part in running the 'business' except to put his name where she pointed.

Shortly thereafter we accidentally discovered that an official Board had been elected without notice to the others who were continuing to give time and expertise - I can think only because Pat liked the prestige of some of them. They all left with very unpleasant feelings about the Derbys. Aside from resenting the extreme lack of courtesy to people who were giving up their time to help, I was pleased with the 'real' Board. Foremost among them were General and Mrs Pierpont-Morgan Hamilton. Besides their wealth, both were well known for their philanthropic work with animal welfare.

The Derbys promised to use their salaries as well as income from the Zoo, commercials, etc to support orphanage expenses, build new cages, and meet all the goals proclaimed, using income earned at the Zoo, income from commercials - as well as all donations. The Hamiltons arranged to meet any financial 'shortfall', with particular emphasis on meeting mortgage obligations, when income was not sufficient to keep the organization afloat. (I discovered later that, unknown to Pat, they were responsible for convincing the San Diego Zoo to hire the Derbys to present wild animal shows, and guaranteed their salary).

During this time a couple who had co-signed a note toward purchase of farm equipment, came to me in distress. The note had

come due and since the Darbys hadn't paid it, they had been forced to meet the obligation. In spite of a family emergency had arisen, Pat had refused meet them. They came to me after seeing Pat driving her new Jaguar (auto), while they were still driving their ancient VW to visit their son in the hospital. Although I had never met these people previously, Pat's response was "Don't bother me with your friends' problems!" (They were never repaid. Their names may be somewhere in my files.)

By autumn, it was apparent to me and to Betty Hayes (who had been engaged as ranch manager) that no compound improvement was being done as promised to members and donors; that merchants were beginning to lose their patience and were dunning for payment of long-overdue bills. Betty and I quit in August 1972.

In Spring 1973 while I was volunteering at our local zoo a very subdued Pat called me begging me to help. The Pierpont Morgan Hamiltons were suing Orphans of the Wild, forcing them into bankruptcy. There was an emergency need for funds to prevent the animals from going to the block. (I think risking the welfare of animals by misuse of their support is cruelty!)

With the understanding I would merely write literature, answer fan letters, etc as before, but have nothing to do with fund raising or other involvement in business, I agreed to help. The new organization was not tax deductible.

Besides generous donations, movies and television brought in some money; their training school brought in \$1,000 per student for a six-weeks course. Most of the upkeep of the animals was done by students as part of the course. Beyond feeding the animals, nothing was spent on improving the compound. Ted finally filed for and received a divorce from Pat. She moved from the house but they continued as partners.

In mid 1974 Pat leased (using 'her own money') an 'option to buy' large home in Santa Ynez Valley, about twelve miles from the compound. About three months later she and her boyfriend decided to purchase twenty acres and luxury home off Los Osos, and start a rival compound. She moved there, trying unsuccessfully to get Ted to take over her lease. He refused, and their partnership was dissolved. The Johnson's and secretary Shirley Andberg (Solvang) continued on Pat's salary; I continued to work for Ted gratis.

A lawsuit had been initiated against Pat by two students for requiring them to clean Pat's house and small animal compound there. It was dropped when the students discovered that they could not sue Pat without suing Ted as well, who they felt blameless. (If this looks useful, I'll try to find out their names.)

By October it was clear that the orphanage was going under. The final blow was foreclosure by the ranch owners who gave them until the beginning of 1975 to move themselves and the animals.

Ted and Pat moved to temporarily donated locations, each taking as many animals as they could manage to maintain. Homes were found for some. Three wolf cubs were born New Years Day (1975). That day, except for them, about seventeen unplaced animals (including a Kodiak bear, two Grizzly Bears, and the remaining wolves including the new mother) were 'put down' by Pete Hatten and I died in the hills behind the compound. If you can contact Mr. Hatten, once director of San Jose Zoo, I think he

Names to contact if possible:

Bill (Burrud) *I am sure it was Burrud, but tape bot. Ted, Pat + Ralph refers to "Bill")*

When Ted met Pat (about 1964) he was chief trainer for Ralph Helfer. Pat begged for and was given a job tending animals (by her own account in her book "Lady and Her Tiger", page 29 she states: At this point it's important to talk about the way I was with animals in those days. In the first place, I didn't know what they were. I loved them passionately and indiscriminately, but....I had no slightest understanding of what it was that I loved nor of what such a love, to be real, must demand of me."

Almost at once she began to want to start her own business with Ted as partner. When he refused, she waited until they were both guests of Bill Burrud on a radio show, at which time she publicly denounced Helfer and all other animal trainers as cruel, abusive, etc. (This has always been her line - that only Pat Derby knows how to treat animals.)

There was going to be a multiple lawsuit, but eventually Ralph, because of his long friendship with Ted, withdrew, but fired both Derbys. *(They said they left because of suit)*

*[NB: The name Derby is a stage name. The actual name is 'Ball' but Pat decided it didn't have class, so persuaded Ted to use his mother's maiden name.]*

I don't know if Bill will cooperate - however, if possible, ask him. Also if any other employees of Helfer's at that time can be found, they'll remember this.

There may be records of the Animal Park with the Derbys from July 1970 through Sept-Oct 1971 who can testify about this. Vince Evans the owner has since died.

Pete Batten

Formerly Director of San Jose Zoo. Helped Derbys on and off until the final breakup of the orphanage in Buellton, at which time he did the hardest thing of all - he put down all the animals which could not be placed elsewhere. I was with him - Pat would not accompany him, instead remained in the little 'kitchen' screaming about the poor animals - the animals that died because money to keep them and the land had been used for her personal gain.

Mrs Beverly Coburn (then Mrs. James Coburn)

Donated monkeys and caging, plus support when Orphans of the Wild was opened. After the bankruptcy (see narrative) she continued to make donations, but stopped when Pat told her to ignore her (B's) managers directions and make the donations larger.

The most important people backing the Derbys when the park contract was cancelled and Orphans of the Wild was organized, were General and Mrs Pierpont Morgan-Hamilton, both noted for philanthropies, including humane movements such as Seeing Eye Dogs, etc. Nora has remarried, now Mrs. King Straus. The General, I believe, has passed away.

I hesitate to mention them - Nora was very bitter about the entire affair. The Hamiltons had, beside generous donations and acting as Directors, had guaranteed to meet any shortfall, particularly with regard to mortgage payments. The 300 valuable acres had been sold to the Derbys at a very reduced price, with a guarantee that every consideration would be taken to help them maintain the animals. Very few, if any, mtg payments had been made, nor were made until in 1974 the lien holders foreclosed.

The Hamiltons also arranged a contract with the San Diego Zoo for the Derbys to produce a 'Wild Animal Show' with an extremely generous salary suggested by Mrs. Hamilton. The shows were tremendously successful - but very little of that income, including the fact that the show animals were boarded free of charge, was ever directed to payment of any bills including animal care.

The Hamiltons not only withdrew support when it was found that no money had been paid on the mortgage, building of animal facilities had halted, and the old ranchhouse was being expensively renovated.

They caused a bankruptcy to be declared. The animals were to be sold unless a sum of \$10,000 was paid.

We did two fund-raising shows and I did a lot of publicity trying to regain trust. The non-profit Ootw was no longer in business.

I don't know where Pat got the money, but the \$10,000 \* was paid and they started over again. [I had left the Derbys

in the Fall of 1972 when I became very angry about the misuse of funds - at the same time Betty Hayes also left.

I did not see the Derbys again for three months at which time Pat called me begging me to help pick up the pieces and try to overcome the failure and continue in spite of not being able to offer tax incentives.

Betty Hayes Endicott (I've lost touch, but you may find her through the Screen Actors Guild - stuntwomen and character actress - last job I know of she was stand-in for Pernell Roberts in Trapper John)

Betty was ranch manager for Orphans of the Wild in Buellton from late 1971-until fall 1972, when we both decided there was too much lack of integrity. She, like all of us who were on the so-called board of directors, was very disturbed by Pat's misuse of donations to the nonprofit corporation. She did the books, and was aware of all transactions. She, the Johnsons and I frequently talked about leaving, but always hoped we or someone could make Pat understand that donations to animals cannot be used to buy new cars, clothes, or antique furniture.

There are several other names, but, like the above, were so very hurt and disgusted that I don't want to give you without their permission, and if they request, promise they will not have to appear in court. I'll talk to them as soon as I can reach them.

Sled - I mention Pat's book several times.

I have a copy you can borrow if you can't find it in a 2nd Hand shop (it didn't sell well) - there are many names in it + events you might find useful.

Re \* pg 2 - Strong rumors of Mafia - film connection stronger re Ted's murder at which time Pat stated "I was probably the one they meant to get."  
Can't verify - + no personal knowledge

Shirley Keith

JG

EXOTIC ANIMALS  
19400 Santa Rita  
Tarzana, Ca., 91356

April 1, 1989

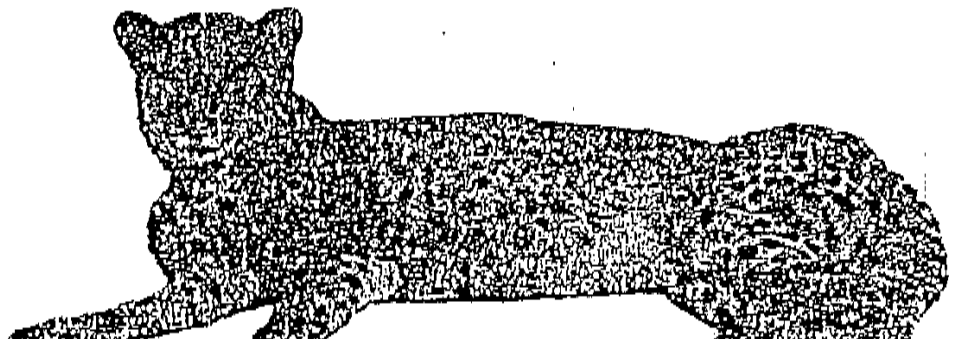
Dear Mr. Reynolds,

At your request, here is my statement about Pat Derby. I worked with her on several jobs. Quite a few years back I worked with her on the Cougar commercials. I supplied baby cougars on several jobs. Pat bragged about how the agency sent her cases of wine. That was her favorite drink and she would have her glass around ten in the morning. I have seen her drink wine while working on the commercial with full grown cougars.

Speaking of abuse to animals, if Pat Derby used to use abuse, and says she does not, why does she think that all other trainers use abuse and if they did in Pat's days, why can't they have changed like she say she is? I worked a cheetah commercial with her. I am the only trainer who had cheetahs, so many trainers used mine animal. The cheetah is a very expensive animal and very docile. We worked a commercial where the cheetah had to run a distance from point A to point B for a car commercial. We did this in the desert during the heat of the day. My cat did the run many times and was getting tired and I told Pat that the animal would have to rest, but she insisted that we try longer. She would not let me talk to the director to explain. She said that she knew how they worked. The cheetah was to run in a straight line to show speed. Then when the cheetah didn't run fast enough, the studio used a motorcycle to chase my cat with to get better speed. After a few tries my cheetah just curled up in a ball and would not run any farther. The animal was breathing very hard and was scared. I told Pat that was enough. I would not kill my animal for any job. My cat was worth more to me than having to work and die for a few dollars.

Then the location was moved over to another spot where there was a lot of vert tall tumble weed. I told Pat to tell the director not to waste his time because my cat would not run through that stuff in a straight line and they would only waste a lot of time, but again she said she knew what she was doing and I told her that I would not let my animal run throught the scene, and I did not.

Gardner McKay was also on this job with his cheetah, which never worked, but he said he would try the scene. His cat would not run so Pat tied a



chicken to a piece of rope about 8 to 10 feet long and raised the rope above her head so the other cheetah could see it and spun the poor chicken around in circles over her head so that the cheetah could see it and run in her direction. She tried this several times, but the cat would not come to the bait.

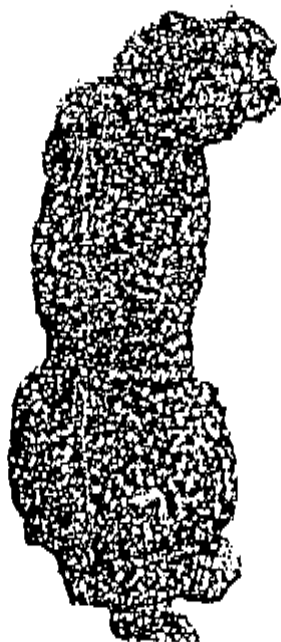
A chicken may be a chicken, but I thought that it was a cruel thing to do. Also it was thoughtless to try to make any animal run through large tumble weeds. These things were higher than the cheetah and had prickly thorns on them. I could see my animal's feet get hurt or one of the thorns get in his eyes. On top of the many hours were wasted in placing a new set, when I knew in advance that my animal would not do it and I would not let him.

I hope this will help you a little.

Sincerely,

*Jan Giacinto*

Jan Giacinto







# Action Animals

Exotic and Domestic Animals

Ronald L. Oxley

7433 Soledad Canyon Road, Acton, California 93510  
(805) 268-0807

July 20, 1984

Performing Animal Welfare Society  
835 Cape Breion Drive  
Pacifica, CA 94044

Dear Friend of Animals:

This letter is in response to a letter I received from P.A.W.S. announcing the formation of their new organization. I have relevant, important comments to make concerning Pat Derby who I suspect is in collusion with Ms. Sue Pressman in the formation of P.A.W.S.

Mrs. Derby claims to have been an animal trainer for 20 years while in fact her and her late husband's short independent career as "trainers" lasted from 5 - 7 years. During this short career they were guilty of severe animal abuse at their own hand. They maintained animals under the most abusive and cruelest of circumstances.

Among their more notable achievements was the constant tranquilization of animals, on the set, during the filming of the Lassie series. The Derbys could not train their animals so they attempted to tranquilize animals as an alternative (substitute) for their obligation to provide the show with tame, trained wild animals. One particular incident included the sedation of a cougar which was placed in a corral with a horse. The horse became excited, kicked the cougar in the head and killed it. Subsequently the camera operator (who can attest to this event) refused to film the Derbys' attempts to later utilize tranquilized wolves.

While working on a Mercury Cougar commercial on location in the Valley of Fire in Nevada, the Derbys allowed one of their cougars to die of heat stroke. I can support this event with hard evidence.

The Derbys' animals were never trained or conditioned to perform in motion pictures and it was pure cruelty on their part for them to even "perform" in motion pictures; just to take their animals on the set was a severe stress on their animals.

cont.

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After their separation Pat Derby could not get a job with her animals so she had a veterinarian euthanize the animals that Ted Derby wouldn't take and those to which she had no personal attachment. This is a most disgusting and disgraceful act. A friend and colleague of mine witnessed these dead animals being scooped up by a tractor shovel and heaped in a pile in the back of a pick up truck.

As an illustration of the character, ethics and morals of Ted Derby it is a matter of fact that he was killed while stealing cattle from a neighboring rancher. He had been warned against rustling cattle prior to being shot for doing so. The man who shot him was acquitted.

My personal, well-founded feelings are that Pat Derby is a frustrated individual who is too lazy to find and/or create a meaningful career; she is therefore preying upon the emotions of an uninformed, innocent public by seeking donations to support P.A.W.S.. She solicits many under the guise of animal humanity for her own personal needs so she can live "high on the hog". I recently watched her on television being interviewed in the company of a bear which she claimed had been abused by an animal trainer. Who was this trainer? She was publically denouncing "trainers" with no specifics; a rather irresponsible act. She was crying during the interview - I wonder if she ever cries at night over the cases of neglect, outright abuse and cruelty of which she was guilty.

Pat Derby should've been an actress because she has convinced so many people that she was an animal trainer. I am convinced that she did not seek an acting career for the same reasons she is not an animal trainer. Animal trainers work 12 - 16 hour days, seven days a week and should spend 75% of their income on cages, feed, animal transportation and property on which to maintain their animals. Animal trainers can ill afford to travel around the country collecting money and fabricating stories about the abuse of motion picture animals.

The few professional animal trainers involved in supplying animals to the TV and Motion Picture Industry are quality people who take excellent care of their animals. On a purely economic basis it is hardly in their best interest to abuse their animals.

I have always considered my ownership of animals a privilege and not a burden. My career as a Professional Trainer has always been secondary to the health, welfare, and day-to-day care of my animals. I am proud and outspoken on my love for animals. Pat Derby for years has written articles full of distortions and lies; she has given T.V. interviews which are full of fabricated stories about animals, animal trainers, animal abuse, animal training, animal handling and animal care.

cont.



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I am in favor of well meaning, highly qualified humane organizations who legitimately seek public and private support and aid in the elimination of any form of cruelty to animals. I will continue to support these organizations such as the American Humane Association who are under contract by the Association of Motion Picture and Television Producers to police the use of animals on the set. There are other worthy organizations which I support who center their activities in the field, off the set.

Any humane group that allows Pat Derby to represent them and use her acting abilities to distract from whatever accomplishments the organization could achieve is wreckless in its judgement and has in itself been deceived by a professional cheat and a liar. The organization's objectives, goals and potential for future progress should be re-evaluated - or the organization should be re-organized or disbanded until a legitimate, knowledgeable, honest representative can be found.

Personally, from this day hence I will continue to gather information, based upon witness testimonials to expose Pat Derby for what she really is - a fraud! Whether or not a class action suit, to cause Pat Derby to cease and desist in her activities is presently being discussed by interested parties in my area.

P.A.W.S. and Pat Derby are not welcomed by our industry and their sordid lies and deceit of the public will not be tolerated. I respectfully caution you to tread carefully in the future and evaluate your allegations in the light of the serious repercussions which may result from any further attempts at public deceit, slandering of professionals and disruption of an industry who has successfully policed itself and driven off the bad characters which Mrs. Derby claims to exist. There are few of us professionals who derive a living by supplying animals for use in the motion picture, TV and entertainment field - we are beyond repute and can withstand any challenges Mrs. Derby cares to present. This is especially true in the light of Mrs. Derby's character, morals, ethics, past history, state of the art knowledge of animals and her present attempts to bilk a well meaning public out of --20.00 --25.00 --35.00 --50 or other \$ \_\_\_\_.

Sincerely yours,

ACTION ANIMALS



Mr. Ronald L. Oxley

cc: Humboldt County Humane Society  
Ms. Carmelita Pope, A.H.A.  
Mr. Bill Brisby, Moorpark College E.A.T.M.