

Cruel and Unusual

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

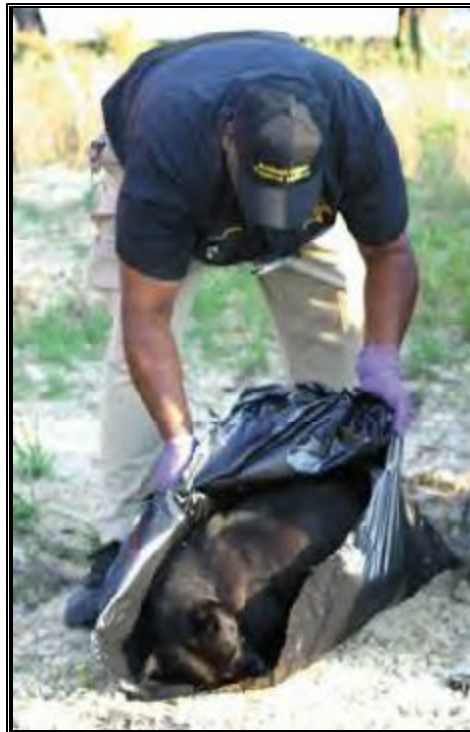
By Iain Murray and Ivan Osorio

Summary: On January 9, two employees of the group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) will appear in court to answer felony charges of animal cruelty. Far from being an isolated incident or an illustration of PETA's hypocrisy, their crimes offer a chilling insight into the beliefs that motivate the group's strategy of animal rights advocacy. What the trial reveals may well be just the tip of the iceberg.

The FBI recently declared environmental and animal rights extremism as its top domestic terrorism priority. The Bureau is currently investigating over 150 cases of arson, bombings, and other violent crimes related to these movements. Law enforcement authorities are rightly concerned about the fanaticism of animal "rights" that justifies violent criminal behavior.

The philosophy of animal rights espoused by the group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA, is very different from a philosophy of humane treatment of animals. An organized movement for animal welfare dates back to 1824, when William Wilberforce—a leader in the campaigns to abolish slavery in the British empire and to improve conditions in factories—helped establish the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in London. Wilberforce's revulsion to cruelty to animals was consistent with the Christian principles on which he based his life's work.

But kindness to animals is a far cry from the extremism of animal rights advocates. Where once animal welfare organizations promoted Wilberforce's understanding of



A sheriff removing dog carcasses from a strip mall dumpster. Two PETA employees are accused of euthanizing dozens of animals after promising to find homes for them.

man's duty toward animals, PETA activists demand a recognition of animal rights—and the difference between those two concepts is great. A decent concern for animal welfare has mutated into a tangle of ideas that have major social consequences. Industry and agriculture are disrupted, medical and scientific research are delayed, and the lives of those whose work involves animals are threatened by violence as a result of the passion for animal rights.

Enter PETA

In 1983, PETA president Ingrid Newkirk wrote these words in a *Washington Post* article: "Six million Jews died in concentration camps, but six billion broiler chickens will die this year in slaughterhouses." This disturbing statement well illustrates PETA's twisted worldview. According to PETA, animal "rights" derive from the moral equivalence between man and animal. Advocates are perfectly serious and do not exaggerate when they argue that just as we do not experiment on or eat babies, neither should we experiment on or eat animals. Taken to its logical conclusion, their view is that humans should not use animals for any purpose whatsoever.

Bear this in mind when you consider PETA's recent allegations of animal abuse at a Fairfax County, Virginia facility run by Covance, a Princeton, NJ-based international medical research firm. PETA's willingness to sponsor a long-term espionage project against a respected medical firm reveals the lengths to which it will go.

Covance develops new medicines to treat Alzheimer's, breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes, and leukemia. Lisa Leitten,

January 2006

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a PETA employee, worked undercover at the firm for nine months in 2004-2005 collecting data on its animal care practices. PETA posted to its website several videos she acquired, claiming they were evidence of animal cruelty. The group spent tens of thousands of dollars to buy a full-page ad in *The New York Times* in June 2005 publicizing the videos. Covance disputed the charges and filed a lawsuit against PETA for Leitten's covert and deceptive actions. After a lengthy court battle, Covance and PETA reached a settlement last October. According to Covance, its terms bar PETA from "conducting any infiltration of Covance" for five years; in addition, Leitten agreed to a three-year ban "on infiltrating any commercial animal research facility worldwide." According to the Associated Press, Leitten had in the course of three years "moved from Missouri to Texas to Virginia, applying for jobs at businesses dealing with animals."

Frederick Goodwin, a former director of the National Institute of Mental Health, and Adrian Morrison, a University of Pennsylvania professor of veterinary medicine, have written, "PETA made it clear that alleged mistreatment of animals was not the real issue. In PETA's view, animals cannot be used to alleviate health problems of people,

Editor: Joseph de Feo

Publisher: Terrence Scanlon

Organization Trends is published by Capital Research Center, a non-partisan education and research organization, classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity.

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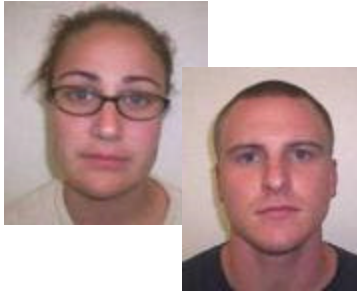
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period." Kidney transplants, cardiac surgery, alleviation of manic-depression, and treatment of hypertension are all examples of medical advances that benefit from animal experimentation. Researchers are now testing new drugs on animals to find treatments



Adria Hinkle and Matthew Cook are charged with animal cruelty and obtaining property by false pretenses.

and cures for many diseases that kill millions every year. Yet to the PETA activist, these potential benefits matter not one whit, because the animals used in tests have no fewer rights than any human.

PETA's extremist views are accompanied by extremist associations. PETA activists have a long history of association with the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and a related underground organization, the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). Former FBI director Louis Freeh called ALF "one of the most active extremist elements in the United States." PETA has made small grants to ELF over the past ten years, and it has provided money to ALF defense funds—such as a grant of \$45,000 to a "support committee" for the defense of ALF member Rod Coronado. Coronado was convicted in 1995 and sentenced to 57 months in a federal prison for the 1992 fire bombing of a research lab at Michigan State University. In 2002 he boasted about his involvement in six other cases of arson. When ABC news reporter John Stossel asked PETA president Ingrid Newkirk in 2003 about Coronado's activities, she called him "a fine young man." Late last year a federal grand jury began investigating his involvement in a case of arson that caused \$50 million in damage to a San Diego housing complex.

Killing Animals to Save Them

On June 15, 2005, two PETA employees were arrested in North Carolina on charges of

animal cruelty. Police caught the pair, Andrew Cook, 24, and Adria Hinkle, 27, dumping the corpses of eighteen dogs, including seven puppies, a cat and two kittens, and several other animals into a dumpster behind a Piggly Wiggly supermarket in Ahoskie County, North Carolina. Witnesses told news teams they thought the animals were given to Cook and Hinkle because their owners believed they would find good homes for them. After all, they worked for PETA.

Police said that the animals were picked up—alive—from animal shelters in Bertie and Northampton counties. A veterinarian, Dr. James Brown of Northampton County, reported that he also had turned over several animals to PETA. "When they started taking them, they said they would try to find homes for them," he told the *Virginian-Pilot*. "Nobody ever checked on them."

Dr. Patrick Proctor of the Ahoskie Animal Hospital (AAH) said Cook and Hinkle promised to give the animals to a good home. He said he occasionally would call PETA to find homes for animals. He guessed that over the previous two years he turned over 50 animals for adoption to PETA. "They came to the office last Wednesday and picked up the cat and two kittens," he told the *Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald* shortly after their arrest. "So imagine my surprise when I learned they allegedly dumped dead animals in a trash bin later that same day." Barry Anderson, an animal control officer from neighboring Bertie County, confirmed to Dr. Proctor that a cat and two kittens were found among 13 dead animals in the van. "This cat and two kittens I gave them last week were in good health and were very adoptable, especially the kittens," said Dr. Proctor, who was called in by police to examine one of the dead animals. "The animal that I found was a very healthy six-month puppy that had been killed that day," he told TV station WNCT Channel 9. "PETA will never pick up another animal from my practice," he said.

Police staked out the dumpster after animal carcasses were found dumped during the previous three weeks. David Harrell, the property manager at the Piggly Wiggly, said he and his co-workers frequently found dead animals at company properties: "Most of the time we would come here on Thursday morning and we'd find anywhere between 19 and 25 dogs per trip." Harrell said

the carcasses usually were in black commercial-strength garbage bags. In April, a construction worker at a rural road outside Gate City, Virginia, near the Tennessee border, also found bags containing about 150 dead dogs.

“Some animals have to be euthanized anyway,” said animal cruelty investigator Karen Cole. “But the way this crowd did it is sick.”

Cook and Hinkle were initially charged with 31 felony counts of animal cruelty and eight misdemeanor counts of illegal disposing of dead animals. A Hertford County grand jury subsequently indicted the pair on 22 felony counts each of cruelty to animals as well as three counts each of obtaining property by false pretenses. Cook and Hinkle are also charged with eight misdemeanor counts of illegal disposal of dead animals and one count of trespassing. They are scheduled to appear in court on January 9. If the two plead not guilty, they cannot be put on the Superior Court trial docket for 30 days. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (VA) reports that PETA is paying their legal expenses.

Neither Cook nor Hinkle is a veterinarian licensed to put an animal to sleep. Yet police also found in their van a tackle box filled with syringes and vials of what lab tests later confirmed were Ketamine and Pentobarbitol. According to Ahsokie police detective Jeremy Roberts, the lead investigator in the case, these are Schedule III drugs, regulated by the Drug Enforcement Agency and only available for purchase by a licensed veterinarian. Dr. Cheryl Powell of the Powellsville Pet Clinic told the *Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald* that Ketamine is mainly used to sedate animals, while Pentobarbitol is used to euthanize them. The fact that the drugs were in a box in the van, ready to be used, clearly suggests that the animals were dispatched in the vehicle immediately, and not after any attempt to find them homes.

Northampton Sheriff’s Office animal cruelty investigator Karen Cole said that some of the animals were very sick or injured and would have been euthanized anyway, but even in those cases Hinkle and Cook acted improperly. “Some animals have to be euthanized,” she told the *Virginian-Pilot*. “But the way this crowd did it is sick.” And, as Dr. Proctor’s account indicates, many of the animals were perfectly healthy.

PETA’s Real Modus Operandi

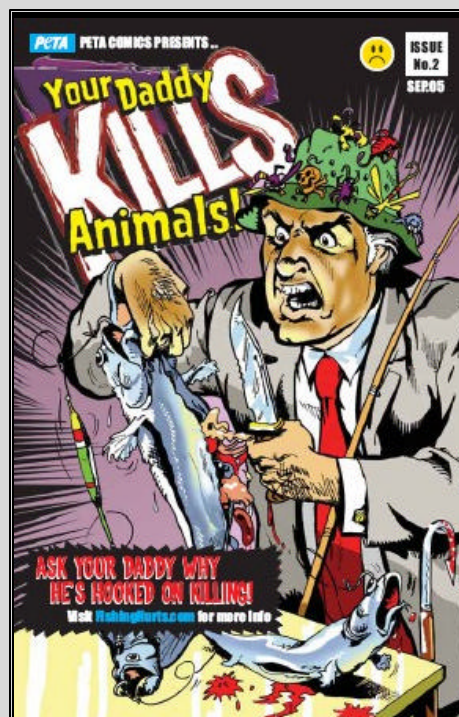
“We are appalled if this actually happened,” PETA President Ingrid Newkirk told the *Virginian-Pilot*. “We would absolutely never condone this behavior.” PETA said it has suspended Hinkle, but not Cook, who worked as Hinkle’s assistant. Newkirk called Hinkle “the Mother Teresa of animals. She’s a very kind, decent person.”

Can we believe Newkirk? In fact, documents filed with the state of Virginia show that PETA kills 85 percent of the animals it takes in. By contrast, the Norfolk SPCA finds homes for 73 percent of the animals entrusted to its care. Former Norfolk SPCA Director Dana Cheek told the Center for Con-

sumer Freedom website petakillsanimals.com, “I often receive phone calls from frantic people who have surrendered their pets to PETA with the understanding that PETA will ‘find them a good home.’ Many of them are led to believe that the animals will be taken to a nearby shelter. Little do they know that the pets are killed in the PETA van before they even pull away from the pet owner’s home.”

That PETA kills animals may shock some, but it is hardly news. In 1991, according to *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Debra Saunders, PETA killed 18 rabbits and 14 roosters it had “rescued” from a research facility because it “didn’t have the money” to care for them and the PETA animal shelter was out of room. Even Newkirk doesn’t appear averse to euthanasia. In a 2003 *New Yorker* profile, she tells how, in the 1970s, she became involved in the animal rights movement after a shelter put to sleep some stray kittens she brought there. She then went to work at an animal shelter, where, she says, “I would go to work early, before anyone got there, and I would just kill the animals myself...I must have killed a thousand of them, sometimes dozens every day.”

PETA Markets its Message to Children



In the fall PETA unleashed its latest propaganda tool aimed at children: a violent anti-fishing comic book titled “Your Daddy Kills Animals.” The cover tells children to “Ask your daddy why he’s hooked on killing!” A sample of the text from this scaremongering pamphlet:

“Since your daddy is teaching you the wrong lessons about right and wrong, you should teach him fishing is killing. Until your daddy learns it’s not fun to kill, keep your doggies and kitties away from him. He’s so hooked on killing defenseless animals, they could be next.”

Hold on a second—who’s really hooked on killing defenseless animals? A clear case of the pot calling the kettle black.

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How can PETA be so cavalier about killing animals? The answer is that PETA's mission is not to advance animal welfare through humane treatment. Its mission is to promote the radical agenda of animal liberation, which holds that animals are better off dead than to be put to an immoral human use, whether for research or food, or even as pets and objects of appreciation.

For instance, in 2003 PETA and other animal liberation groups filed suit to prevent zoos in San Diego and Tampa from importing African elephants endangered by overcrowding. *National Review* writer Wesley Smith observed that the court denied PETA's request for an injunction, saying that unless they were brought to the U.S. the elephants would be culled by South African authorities, since their numbers were a danger to the ecosystem of the famous Kruger National Park. The court said putting the elephants in zoos would save their lives. But this was of no concern to PETA. The plaintiffs' attorneys argued that the elephants "will be better off if...killed rather than imported and placed in zoos."

On its 2002 federal tax Form 990 PETA notes the expenditure of almost \$10,000 for a giant walk-in freezer. PETA promotes vegetarianism, but it's hard to imagine that the freezer is for frozen vegetables. One can only wonder how many dogs and cats PETA could have kept alive had it used its money to feed

and shelter them rather than to buy a full-page *New York Times* ad attacking Covance. PETA has a \$25 million annual budget. Its eagerness to play the angel of death, deciding when life is worth living, is distressing.

Conclusion

PETA compounds the horror of its genuinely inhumane philosophy by employing treacherous tactics. The group asserts that animals have the same rights as humans. But it is prepared to use stealth tactics to kill animals to prevent them from being used to enhance human welfare or increase human enjoyment. PETA says it kills animals to prevent animal suffering and humiliation. But if animals and humans have the same rights, then what stops PETA from harming humans too? This question may seem far-fetched, but there is a slippery slope between the ravings of the organization and the activism of its constituent members. PETA's documented ties to violent activists, its deceitful tactics, and its considerable financial resources create a frightening picture we dare not ignore. **OT**

Iain Murray is a Senior Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), a Washington, D.C.-based public policy organization dedicated to advancing the principles of free enterprise and limited government. Ivan Osorio is Editorial Director at CEI.

A Modest Proposal



On December 11 actor Alec Baldwin and former model Heather Mills McCartney aired a disturbing PETA video on CNN's "Larry King Live." PETA, according to its website, "recently conducted an undercover investigation into the Chinese dog and cat fur trade to show you what the industry is so desperate to hide." (One wonders if PETA intended that pun.) The group—rightly—condemns cruel Chinese methods of harvesting dog and cat hides for clothing and other items. PETA points out that "China supplies more than half of the finished fur garments imported for sale in the United States, so the bottom line is that because dog and cat fur is so often mislabeled, if you're buying fur, there's no way to tell whose skin you're wearing." But there is a solution that PETA hasn't considered—perhaps it should offer clothing manufacturers the fur of the animals PETA euthanizes, instead of letting them go to waste. Or maybe PETA could produce fur coats for the homeless this winter. But then PETA might have to admit that all fur might not be murder.

Here's the Drill

ANWR and the Energy Crunch

By David Hogberg and James Dellinger

When this issue went to press, the House and Senate representatives were set to discuss the inclusion of provisions for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in their budget blueprint or elsewhere. Heating bills are poised to skyrocket in much of the country this month, and homeowners will be looking to Congress for answers. What can we expect from our elected representatives? Will they take seriously the need to increase the supply of energy?

In November the Senate passed 51-48 a budget reconciliation bill that authorized energy exploration in ANWR. However, ANWR was stalled in the House where minority leader Nancy Pelosi clamped down on her fellow Democrats, preventing crossovers by 20 to 30 Democrats from districts with a heavy pro-ANWR union presence. To make matters worse, 24 Republicans signed a letter to Richard Pombo, chairman of the House Resources Committee, urging that ANWR drilling not be in the budget reconciliation bill.

The list of Republican signers is top-heavy with RINOs (Republicans In Name Only). Ironically, many are also from high-fuel-cost cold weather states -- Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Many of these Northeastern and Midwestern representatives will now go hat in hand to the taxpayers for home-heating subsidies this winter.

That's begging for a lot. According to the research firm Global Insight, U.S. consumers could face a home-heating price increase that will average 48 percent this year. The reason is basic economics. In recent years more power companies have switched from coal to cleaner burning natural gas to generate electricity, thereby driving up demand. Natural gas is already the fuel most commonly used to heat homes. But while demand is increasing, supply is not, which means higher prices: Natural gas prices have already jumped from \$2 per thousand cubic feet to roughly \$13 in only a few years.

The pain is not limited to homeowners. Despite all the recent good news about economic growth, the American Chemistry Council estimates that since 2000 roughly 100,000 jobs and \$50 billion have been lost because of rising natural gas prices. Between 2000 and 2002 the plastics industry lost 150,000 jobs and \$14.6 billion in economic activity. The American fertilizer industry, also hard hit, lost over one-third of its capacity since 2002.



Discovered in 1968, the oil fields at Prudhoe Bay are the largest in North America.

Drilling in ANWR could produce about 150 billion cubic feet of natural gas a year. That's not a huge amount, but it's a start. Drilling in ANWR is good for the economy in other ways as well. Estimates of the number of new jobs it will create range from 250,000 to 735,000.

But all this is lost on the GOP holdouts, captive to environmentalist propaganda like this from the Natural Resources Defense Council:

Oil produced from the Arctic Refuge would come at enormous, and irreversible, cost. The refuge is among the world's last true wildernesses, and it is one of the largest sanctuaries for Arctic animals. Traversed by a dozen rivers and framed by jagged peaks, this spectacular wilderness is a vital birthing ground for polar bears, grizzlies, Arctic wolves, caribou and

the endangered shaggy musk ox, a mammoth-like survivor of the last Ice Age.

One only has to go 60 miles west of ANWR, to Prudhoe Bay, to see that drilling can co-exist with wildlife. Drilling facilities and gravel roads cover only two percent of the 250,000-acre Prudhoe Bay field. And the caribou thrive. Their numbers have increased from 3,000 in the 1970s when drilling there began to about 32,000 in 2002.

Of course, to secure adequate future energy supplies the U.S. must encourage more energy exploration and drilling. ANWR is just a start. There is over a 50 years supply of natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf, which will require more drilling off Florida and Gulf Coast. But unfortunately when the House added the authorization for drilling in ANWR it stripped out of the bill authorization to drill in the Outer Continental Shelf.

If increasing supply is a serious solution to rising natural gas prices, then this Congress is not very serious at all. **OT**

David Hogberg is editor of CRC online research programs "Education Watch" and "Greenwatch." James Dellinger is a research analyst at CRC. This article originally appeared in The American Spectator Online.

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BrieflyNoted

CERES is a network of environmental groups and investment funds that works to promote the green agenda among businesses. On December 1st it issued a press release to inveigle the 30 largest publicly held insurance companies to join the global warming crusade. “Citing the enormous risks that insurance companies face from escalating losses caused by extreme weather events and the financial risks and opportunities associated with climate change,” the press release read, the insurance companies should issue reports that “address the multiple types of risk and opportunity that insurers face in regard to climate change.” However, just the day before, **USA Today** ran a story saying something different. **Gerry Bell**, lead meteorologist for the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Prediction Center**, claimed that natural conditions, not man-made global warming, caused the record-breaking 2005 tropical storm season. Timing is everything.

The **New York Times** has reported a rift between **ACLU** executive director **Anthony Romero** and some on his eighty-three-member board. One point of contention: Romero’s unilateral decision to name a new ACLU office building in Washington, DC after the donor who forked over \$8.5 million to buy it: insurance magnate **Peter B. Lewis**. It looks like **George Soros**’s touch of death is rubbing off on his friends.

In early December authorities arrested six accused eco-terrorists in coordinated raids in Arizona, New York, Oregon, and Virginia. The accused are allegedly responsible for arson attacks in the Pacific Northwest, for which the **Earth Liberation Front** claims responsibility. Four of the accused (**Chelsea Gerlach** of Portland, Oregon; **Kevin Tubbs** of Oregon; **Bill Rodgers** of Prescott, Arizona; and **Sarah Harvey** of Flagstaff, Arizona) face up to twenty-five years in prison. **Daniel McGowan** of New York and **Stanislas Meyerhoff** of Virginia are facing up to life in prison, the most serious charges ever filed against eco-terrorists. **Martin Stolar**, president of the New York chapter of the ultra-leftist **National Lawyers Guild**, is defending McGowan. Why are we not surprised?

Wall Street Journal columnist **Allan Murray** observed that corporate executives are under pressure “not just from regulators, but from newly energized boards, ambitious attorneys general, trial lawyers, nongovernmental organizations, activist hedge funds and countless other shareholder groups—all wanting a say in the company’s affairs.” To counter the Left, two entrepreneurs, **Steve Milloy** and **Tom Borelli**, have registered a mutual fund to join the political battle in the boardrooms. The **Free Enterprise Action Fund** (www.freeenterpriseactionfund.com) plans to use its shareholder standing to defend the principles of free enterprise within the companies in which it will invest. The mutual fund compliments **CRC**’s efforts to address the increasing power and influence of non-profit advocacy organizations.

On December 7, **Microsoft** announced that it was caving in to demands of the Falls Church, Virginia-based **Center for Health, Environment, & Justice** (CHEJ) to discontinue use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), or vinyl, in packaging its products. Microsoft joins a host of companies that have bought CHEJ’s chicken-little warnings about dioxins released by burning PVC. However, CHEJ never mentions **Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream**, despite a 1999 study published by junkscience.com showing that one serving of the leftist brand’s **Best Vanilla** could contain as much as 200 times the amount of dioxins the **Environmental Protection Agency** says is safe. What’s a little poison, among friends?

The **ACLU** recently filed a lawsuit supporting two **Georgia** high school students suspended for posting comments about their English teacher on an off-campus website: “We have to take notes her way and get GRADED on how many notes we take! Filthy whore’s gotta die.” The school settled out of court for \$95,000. **Said Deborah Jacobs**, an executive director of the ACLU, “Observing and making comments about how government functions is what free speech is all about. Students should be encouraged to express themselves in this manner so that they grow into thoughtful, contributing adults.” And dumb thugs, too.

