

CONTEXTUAL THREAT- Whilst there have been no recent reports of **Animal Rights Terrorism** activities, as professionals where animal welfare is our first consideration, we must be aware that we are **potential targets for grooming and radicalisation** and must abide by the social media guidance in the RCVS Fitness to Practice & Code of Professional Conduct

CASE STUDY-ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISM

In 2019, in the Eastern region there was an increased activity in social media on the topic 'Vegan January'

There is no problem being vegan, unless when people are groomed to be Vegan for the wrong reasons, which happened to a group of girls in the East of England region

A group of people was promoting veganism in the market square holding laptop computers. On these computers there would be horrendous images of abattoirs, some even with the sound.

The group would ask members of the public passing by 'Do you like what you see?'. Regardless of whether you eat meat or not the answer would be 'No' because of the distressing images so they would then be asked to turn vegan, as the animals would not be sent to the abattoirs

A group of girls asked information of being vegan to help the animals; they gave their details and the group started sending them information about veganism. The girls showed more interest and started to interact in social media: liking comments the group had made, sharing images etc

As time went by, the girls were then asked if they would like to go to the market square, have the laptops and try to convert other members of the public. They agreed, went along and continued showing interest

One day they were asked if they would like to go to a local farm with the group; the plan was to release some animals from the barn as it would cause the farmer problems and some animals may get away and not end up going to the abattoir

The group of girls agreed and were picked up late at night, all dressed in black and wearing balaclavas and taken to the farm where they released the animals from the barn, after which they were also encouraged to set fire to the barn so the farmer couldn't restock easily, and they also set fire to some machinery there

Without realising, those girls had committed a terrorist act as they caused criminal damage to a property for a 'cause'

The young girls were arrested and criminal proceedings were ongoing as of April 2021

While the girls were never set to become terrorists and were just trying to help animals, if they get a terrorism conviction, who will employ them? Which country will allow them to travel?

As professionals where animal welfare is our first consideration, we must be aware that we are potential targets for grooming and radicalisation and must abide by the social media guidance in the RCVS Fitness to Practice and Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses

Definition of terrorism: action designed to influence the government, intimidate the public, with the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause, that endangers or causes serious violence or harm to people, property, or seriously disrupts or interferes with an electronic system