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MATTERS OF TASTE; Animal rights and wrongs; When it comes to defending livestock, some activists are going to extremes.

[HOME EDITION]

Los Angeles Times - Los Angeles, Calif.
 Subjects: [Animal rights movement](#), [Vandalism](#)
 Author: David Shaw
 Date: Feb 23, 2005
 Start Page: F.2
 Section: Food; Part F; Features Desk
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Abstract (Document Summary)

They spray-painted the home of a San Francisco chef known for his various foie gras preparations. They also splashed his car with acid, sealed his garage door with glue, painted "foie gras is animal torture" and "stop or be stopped" on the doors and windows at his partner's home and went to the gourmet shop and restaurant that the two men planned to open and poured cement in the sinks, spray-painted the walls and flooded the shop (and two adjacent businesses) by turning all the water taps on.

Temple Grandin, in her book "Animals in Translation," argues fairly persuasively that many animals do feel pain. That's why she's worked so diligently for the humane treatment of animals. She consults with McDonald's and with Bob Langert, the company's senior director of social responsibility. As a result, PETA's [Lisa Lange] says McDonald's is actually "leading the way" in reforming the practices of fast-food suppliers, in the treatment and the killing of its beef and poultry.

Ironically, the most recent vandalism by animal rights activists comes at a time when there is a greater effort than ever to treat animals humanely and to kill them as painlessly as possible. Organizations like PETA can rightfully claim some credit for this consciousness-raising. These changes have not come about because of violence and vandalism, though. Chefs, farmers and others are not acting out of fear but out of conviction, and I applaud them for that.

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