

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



*“Our mission is to achieve
**revolutionary social and political
change for animals in one generation.”***

Every year, we set out objectives according to our mission and our [strategic roadmap](#). In 2022, we sought to politicize the debate about animal agriculture, capture worldwide attention with our #RightToRescue trials, and continue building a powerful grassroots movement for animals. And that’s exactly what we did. We are on the cusp of DxE’s 10th birthday, and while there is still so much work to be done, we are proud of what we have achieved as a network and ready for the challenges ahead.

Here’s to another decade of bold action for animals.

A GROUNDBREAKING VICTORY FOR THE #RIGHTTORESCUE

In 2022, we had our most significant court victory to date. DxE investigators Wayne Hsiung and Paul Darwin Picklesimer stood trial in Utah, facing felony charges and over a decade in prison for exposing Smithfield's Circle Four Farms and rescuing Lily and Lizzie, two sick and injured piglets. In a historic first, they were unanimously acquitted on all charges. This paradigm-shifting win set a cultural precedent for the #RightToRescue and had impacts well beyond the courtroom:

- Substantial and positive reporting in [The New York Times](#), [The Intercept](#), [Democracy Now!](#); [an opinion piece in The New York Times](#); and coverage by dozens of other media outlets
- Over 100 activists converging in Utah to support and amplify the trial with actions and outreach
- 150,000 people visiting [RightToRescue.com](#) during trial
- Positive conversations with jurors following trial, with 5 of 8 jurors agreeing to participate in a Trial Summit in January 2023

As evidenced by the Smithfield Trial, DxE's open rescue trials provide the perfect opportunity to dramatize the issue, grab mainstream media attention, and encourage the public to pick a side: are you with the animal abusing corporations, or are you with the animal rescuers? And we are just getting started.

Inspired by DxE's rescues, investigations, and dramatic protests, the University of Denver Sturm College of Law has launched the Animal Activist Defense Project - a law clinic designed specifically to protect animal rights activists facing legal repression. With a win under our belt, a new law clinic offering support, and three rescue trials planned for 2023, we are ready to make history again next year.

"I can't think of a more significant animal law case in recent history."

- Justin Marceau in The New York Times





POLITICIZING THE DEBATE ABOUT ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Almost everyone told us that state legislators wouldn't listen to us, but we proved them wrong. In February 2022, after we spent 18 months campaigning, lobbying, and coalition-building alongside our sister organization Compassionate Bay, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian and joint author Assemblymember Alex Lee introduced

- A [series of powerful op-eds](#) were [published](#) in California's [largest newspapers](#)
- 160 organizations submitted official letters of support for the bill
- Thousands of Californians took action in support of the bill, including 1,000 constituents of the Agriculture Committee members who mailed postcards to their representatives and over 130 people who attended a rally at the State Capitol

*"I'm proud to be joint author AB 2764
– Mass industrial slaughterhouses
impose inhumane cruelty on animals
and workers and have detrimental
environmental and health impacts."*

- California Assemblymember Alex Lee

Assembly Bill 2764, a first-of-its kind bill that would enact a moratorium on the construction and expansion of commercial animal feeding operations and slaughterhouses in California.

While the bill ultimately died in the Assembly Agriculture Committee as expected, it provided an incredible opportunity to politicize the issue and build public support for the end of factory farming.

When it became clear that AB 2764 would not reach a vote, we did not let up. A brave activist [glued her hand](#) to the speaker's table during an Agriculture Committee hearing and began reading off the names of the tens of thousands of bill supporters. While clearly disruptive, contacts at the Capitol have informed us that the bold [No More Factory Farms](#) campaign, including this action, inspired several legislators to strategize about how the bill might be passed in the future.

We have reason to believe we'll have another shot in 2023 or 2024. In the meantime, we are building up our capacity to launch a ballot measure campaign that could end factory farming without needing to go through the industry-funded legislature. We will not give up on our vision of a future without animal agriculture.





SHINING A LIGHT ON THE INDUSTRY'S DIRTY SECRETS

DxE investigators have historically gone where no investigators have dared to go before - capturing never-before-seen footage of practices and facilities previously hidden from the public. 2022 was no different. As a virulent strain of avian flu ravaged the world, leading farmers to kill tens of millions of birds, we captured footage of the aftermath of the mass-kill method known as “ventilation shutdown” at an Iowa egg farm owned by Glen Taylor, who also happens to be the owner of the Minnesota Timberwolves and the richest man in Minnesota.

To bring awareness to this abuse, DxE activists staged a protest campaign during the NBA playoffs - gluing themselves to the court, chaining themselves to the hoop, and dressing up as a referee to “eject” Taylor from the game. The actions went completely viral on Twitter, resulted in a [flurry of media attention](#), and drove thousands of people to google “Glen Taylor Roasts Animals Alive.”

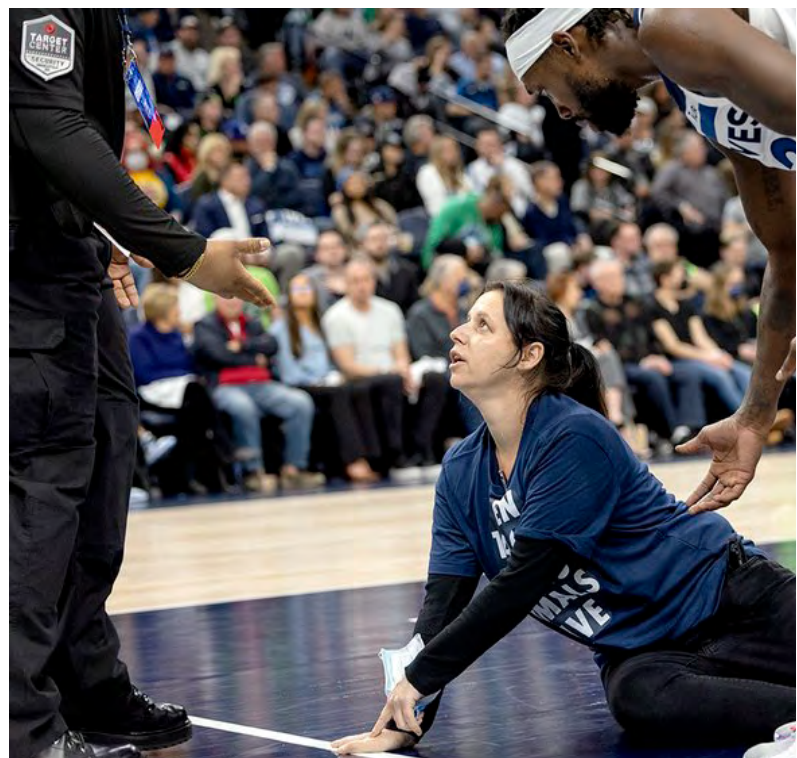
The impacts of our investigations last much longer than playoff season, even inspiring Senator Cory Booker to [introduce the Industrial Agriculture Accountability Act](#) this year. In 2022, we also released [Imperial Dust](#), a mini-documentary exposing a government-funded, newly opened cow slaughterhouse, and exposed a California [Foster Farms turkey farm](#).

Despite legal repression and increased industry security, DxE investigators will continue to go to

“Without direct action and investigations by groups like DxE, no one would know anything that happens on factory farms. The meat industry is highly secretive, and without undercover footage and direct activist intervention, its abuses would be carried out entirely in the dark.”

- Marina Bolotnikova in Current Affairs

the frontlines, obtain footage that no one else can, share it with the movement, and publish it for the entire world to see.



SUPPORTING A GLOBAL GRASSROOTS NETWORK



Direct action truly is everywhere. With dozens of DxÉ chapters around the world, we are building a grassroots movement that has sufficient power to transform the way our social, political, and legal systems treat other animals. Highlights include:

- DxÉ Korea opened a brand new animal rights center in Seoul that is serving as a hub for activism in the city and which helped them mobilize over 300 activists for a march in support of [Rose's Law: Animal Bill of Rights](#)

- DxÉ Paris saved the lives of over a dozen animals this year, bringing national television reporters alongside them on their investigations
- DxÉ Montreal executed a bold open rescue where activists [climbed onto a slaughter truck](#) in broad daylight, rescued a chicken named Avril and rushed him to safety

2023 will see even more training and development opportunities for grassroots activists as we relaunch the [Animal Liberation Conference](#) and host, for the first time ever, a direct action skills training camp in collaboration with climate justice organizations.

There is so much more we accomplished as a network in 2022. From [animal rescues in rural Iowa](#) to [civil rights lawsuits](#) in Beaver County, Utah, and of course [the trial-that-almost-was](#) in January, where DxÉ investigator Matt Johnson had [all his charges dropped](#) less than 48 hours before trial was set to begin. It's been an [incredible year](#), and an incredible decade, and we are ready for more.



Thank you for believing in our mission and being part of the team.
Working to change the world is not easy, but it's worth it.

Right now, an anonymous donor is offering to match all donations made through the end of the year. You can help us prepare for success - and take advantage of this incredible opportunity - by [offering a year-end gift to a supporting 501\(c\)\(3\)](#). If you prefer to donate by mail, you can address checks to Friends of DxE and send to PMB 328, 2425 Channing Way Ste. B, Berkeley CA, 94704.



If you have questions about your donation or want to see our financial transparency document, please email fundraising@directactioneverywhere.com.