rather than specific, so that the attacks of the movement are necessarily multi-dimensional. A few institutions under protest in addition to factory farming and research laboratories include NASA, the cosmetic industry, restaurants, and the U.S. military, which has subjected animals to the effects of atomic fallout, chemical and biological toxins, and neutron bomb radiation. The number of products which at least partially involve animal suffering is lengthy as well; candies, camera film, soaps, cosmetics, drugs, shoes, coats, and food, to name a few. To combat these institutions and practices and to effect political change, AR groups have utilized and advocated a host of strategies and tactics which can be divided into six overlapping types: educational and informational, political (strictest sense), direct action, legal, public protest, and private alternatives. A brief overview of these actions is necessary to understand both the direction of the movement and the structure of AR groups whose form and function are often closely interrelated. However, the nature of such actions along with the deep divisions over strategies and tactics will become more evident with an examination of specific organizations and their philosophical and political differences.

Educating the public and disseminating information on animal issues is the first and most important tactic used by AR groups and therefore needs to be examined in some depth. This fact is aptly expressed in Animalines: "Among the myriad of approaches utilized by the various organizations, the common denominator is the belief that knowledge is the ultimate liberator."[25] Moreover, this belief is put into practice by all but a few of the organizations which confine their approaches to direct action for animals and which could be said to educate the public indirectly through these actions.

Among the most common forms of information are pamphlets, newsletters, and magazines which AR groups distribute to their members and to the public. While this literature is usually filled with statistics, descriptions, and pictures detailing animal abuse, they often contain practical advice about "cruelty-free" products, alternative diets, and the location and dates of educational events and demonstrations. This material is usually the product of long hours of research, and despite many of the differences within the movement, there is a great deal of information sharing between organizations which frequently distribute and rely on the literature of others. The strict task of a number of organizations is, in fact, to compile and disseminate data to other groups and interested people.

Somewhat paradoxically, the media is one of the movement's greatest potential weapons and yet one of its biggest enemies at this time. The media, magazines in particular, has in effect legitimized animal research, sport hunting, and food industries through repetition—that is, they have called attention to the glories, products, and conveniences derived from these institutions so repeatedly and to such a degree that they have near universal acceptance. The means of these practices are seldom questioned. In almost every issue of Time, Newsweek, or Reader's Digest, for example, one can find mention of animal experiments which, it is claimed, in some way contributed to the stockpile of knowledge or stories about research scientists receiving awards and making discoveries. Television commercials make animal products into a kind of art, and the news and educational programs highlight ani-