



Animal Defenders
Office

Using the law to protect animals



Team ADO member Gabriel Cole, 16 years old, finished in the top 10 in the 5km event (above); and some of Team ADO, sweaty and proud at the finishing line (below right).

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September

ADO Newsletter

Until we have the courage to recognise cruelty for what it is – whether its victim is human or animal – we cannot expect things to be much better in this world.

-- Rachel Carson

Team ADO: Running (and walking) for animals at the Canberra Times Fun Run!

September is the time for the ADO's annual fundraising event: the Canberra Times Fun Run. Team members participated in all three distances: the 14km, 10km and 5km events. One member of Team ADO, Gabriel Cole, placed 8th overall in the 5km race, and second in his age division (you can read an interview with Gabriel on page 3).

Even though at one point we were referred to as the Australian Defence Organisation by race announcers (?!), the day was an overwhelming success. Team ADO was the top charity team in both the 5km and 10km events in terms of average pace, and we raised over \$1,300 for our community legal centre.

Training starts now for 2018!



International profile:

Sky Foundation, Romania

The ADO supports other organisations that aim to promote respect and protection for all animals.

One organisation that recently reached out to the ADO is Sky Foundation, an animal shelter based in Iasi, Romania.

Located on the outskirts of the city centre, Sky Foundation is leading the way in combatting animal cruelty in Romania, despite hostility from government authorities and little awareness of animal welfare matters in the country in general.

The organisation currently hosts hundreds of dogs and cats, nine horses and one donkey, but is struggling to keep up with the increasing number of stray animals (30,000) in a city with a population of 400,000 people.

The Foundation was established in 2006 and has since expanded its

services to include food, treatments, and surgeries (such as desexing) for street and wild animals. Many stray animals arrive at Sky Foundation sick, injured and malnourished. Thanks to the Foundation they can make a full recovery, as can be seen in the pictures accompanying this article. Many animals at the shelter have also been rehomed.

Sky Foundation needs as much support as it can get, as Romania is a country where corruption is widespread and protecting animals is considered too insignificant for authorities to support such ventures.

For more information about this international animal protection organisation that brings stray animals in from the street and provides them with food, medicine, and shelter, please visit their website: <http://fundatiasky.org/> or their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Sky.Foundation.

-- Clarissa Goh (ADO volunteer)



Rescued dogs at the Sky Foundation centre



Cats lounging at the Sky Foundation centre



Dogs with space to roam, play and bathe in shell pools

ADO speaks out

...against the Blantyre Farms piggery

The ADO recently joined with other animal advocates to oppose a proposal by Blantyre Farms to build an intensive piggery in Harden, NSW. The proposed piggery would have housed 25,000 pigs in confined conditions for their entire lives. The campaign against the piggery was spearheaded by the amazing group **Say No To Blantyre Farms in Harden**. The ADO and other opponents spoke out in a public forum against the proposed intensive piggery. The 19-month battle happily culminated in the local Council's decision to refuse the development proposal. This is a wonderful example of grassroots campaigning working on behalf of animals.

...against the Fun Run petting zoo

Enjoyable as the event itself was, the ADO was concerned to see that the Canberra Times Fun Run featured a petting zoo as part of the post-race entertainment. The display included a three-week-old goat. There are significant animal welfare concerns associated with petting zoos, and there is no available ACT code of practice regulating short-term displays of animals. The ADO outlined its animal welfare concerns in a letter to the organisers of the event. You can read our letter here: <https://goo.gl/nD73WT>.

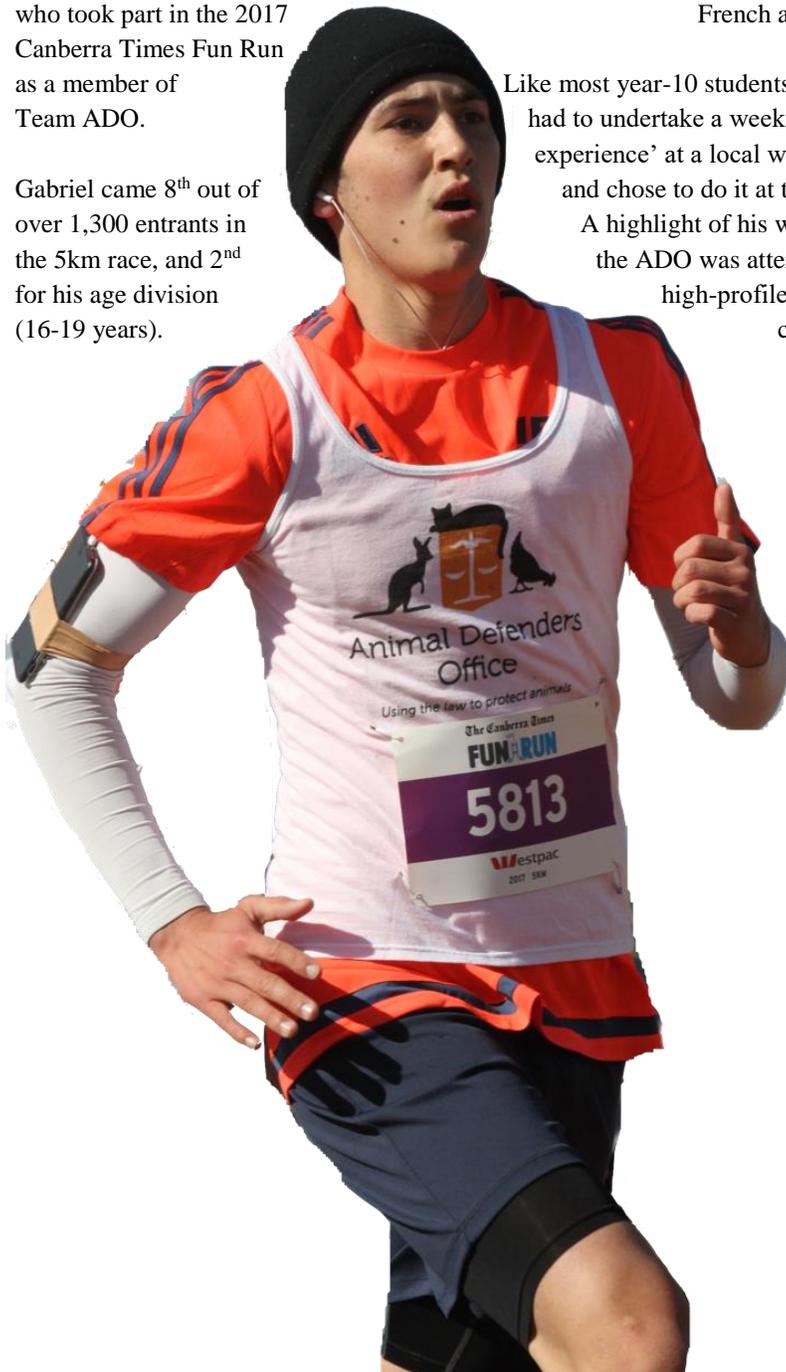
We want to ensure next year's event is animal friendly!

A DIALOGUE

Interview with Gabriel Cole, Team ADO Runner Extraordinaire

This month we're talking with Gabriel Cole—16-year-old high-school student, athlete, vegan, and possible future animal lawyer—who took part in the 2017 Canberra Times Fun Run as a member of Team ADO.

Gabriel came 8th out of over 1,300 entrants in the 5km race, and 2nd for his age division (16-19 years).



Gabriel is in year 10 at Lyneham High School in the ACT. He turned 16 on 1 September, two days before the Fun Run! His school subjects include French and Food.

Like most year-10 students, Gabriel had to undertake a week of 'work experience' at a local workplace, and chose to do it at the ADO. A highlight of his week with the ADO was attending the high-profile 'ag-gag' court case

in the Cootamundra Local Court in NSW [for a report on this case, see the ADO newsletter for August 2017]. Gabriel said, "it was great to witness all the court proceedings", and that he would certainly consider law as a future career option.

His current passion, however, is football (soccer). Gabriel has already managed to distinguish himself as a successful young sportsman with his team, the Canberra United Academy Under-17s. The 'CUA' recently topped the under-20s Canberra National Premier League.

Gabriel has competed in the previous three Fun Runs as part of Team ADO. He is adamant that being vegan does not disadvantage you as an athlete. Instead, he asserts that "nutrition is not an issue. This is an excuse for not [doing] the physical training" [hear, hear!]. Gabriel says that he doesn't train for running. His fitness is a result of morning and afternoon football training sessions and riding his bike everywhere. However, he does have some advice for those who are aspiring to get up and run in next year's Fun Run:

...just try your best for the full distance and don't give up.

Decent life advice in general, really—thanks Gabriel!

-- Serrin Rutledge-Prior (Editor), who hopes to do better than her 1,230th placing come next year...



Film review: *Carnage* (2017)

Carnage is a mockumentary by English comedian Simon Amstell. The film is set in Britain in 2067, at a time when veganism is so firmly entrenched that it is the (meat-eating) ‘carnists’ who require a label. In Amstell’s film this has come about because of environmental pressures, including the mad cow crisis of the 1990s, severe flooding in England in 2014, and an imagined ‘Super Swine Flu’ in 2021. These events are linked with significant increases in the price of meat, as well as fears about its safety. The young people populating Amstell’s imagined England in 2067 have not grown up in a meat-eating culture, and in a world largely free of methane-producing livestock, they seem free of fears about climate change. They are presented socialising in sun-dappled fields and forests, a picture of ecological compassion. This is in contrast with the some of the older people in this world. Remembering their former meat- and dairy-eating days, they are so filled with remorse that they attend support groups. An activity at one such group involves participants reluctantly naming the

cheeses they used to enjoy. The thought of having once consumed cheese so distresses one of the participants that she flees the room.

Not only does the film depict this utopian future, but it also shows the past (*our* present) in all its horrific contradictions. The film does this by narrating how the world got to its vegan existence in 2067. By ‘looking back’ over the past (*our* present), we are reminded of our current propensity for humiliating larger people on TV for being unable to refrain from eating the fatty, sugary, salty, meaty food that their very culture is feeding them. We are reminded of the sly ploys of fast food chains, with the observation that:

Parents were charmed by characters like the Burger King, preferring to think of him as a magical king, rather than someone just dressed like that to detract from the genocide.

But we are also reminded of how often ridiculous, unrelatable, and bizarre the vegan movement could appear, with its array of beige meal options, off-putting performance pieces (see Figure 1), and uninspiring representative members (see Figure 2).

This is what makes the film truly stand out. It delights in pointing the finger at both sides (lovingly in the case of veganism, not so lovingly in the case of carnism), while ultimately arguing that there is a better future possible. So let’s keep fighting for that future, and what better way to do so than through laughter?

-- Serrin Rutledge-Prior



Figure 1. Man in cage: Is this really encouraging people to become vegan?



Figure 2. A depressingly bland vegan family



Figure 3. A community screening of *Carnage* in Canberra by Vegan ACT, September 2017

Upcoming

The ADO is a major sponsor of Canberra’s **Living Green Festival** held at the **Albert Hall on Sunday 1 October 2017, 10am-4pm**. This cruelty-free event promotes ‘a kinder shade of green’, and features over 80 market and food stalls, an amazing range of global plant-based cuisine, live music and entertainment, as well as talks and cooking demonstrations. It also boasts its very own dog café. It’s the ADO’s favourite event of the year! See: www.lgf.org.au

ADO lawyer and director, Mike Rosalky, will be presenting at this year’s **Animal Activists Forum** in **Melbourne**. This amazing event will be held on the weekend of **14-15 October**. Register now at: <http://www.activistsforum.com/>

The ADO is really looking forward to being a stallholder at the **Cruelty Free Festival** on **Sunday 22 October 2017** at **The Cutaway, Barangaroo Reserve** in **Sydney**. For more see: www.crueltyfreefestival.org.au



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