



FIGHTING CHANCE

Volume 17, Issue 1

Letter from LCA President Chris DeRose

Chris and his pal Bing



Woody Allen has said that 80% of life is showing up. Given that, I must give credit where it is due. To the young activists of today who showed up in protest against Huntingdon Life Sciences here in Los Angeles and to the young activists all across the globe who showed up in protest for World Week for Animals in Laboratories at the end of April.

Mark my words. It will be the members of Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) both here in the United States and over in England who will bring down unnecessary testing facilities like HLS. This group sets

the standard for thinking things through, going after the cause of the problem by looking at the backers and then focusing their efforts on them.

It's a new world in activism. A world that recognizes the need for immediate action. A world that sees both the past and the future concurrently and can make rapid and accurate decisions for the advancement of animal rights. And this world is being led by a new generation who brings innovation to their activities. These are the people on the front lines. Fearless thinkers who stand ready to be counted and to make those who are acting without conscience accountable for their results.

LCA stands behind these faces of today, these legends of tomorrow. During the recent World Week activities we stood tall beside these frontrunners. Putting our money where our mouths are by stepping up to the line. Protests for the recent World Week in Los Angeles were charged with activities which made known where we as activists stand on the issue of vivisection. We voiced our intolerance and backed up our voices in protest.

As a result, there is today, less support for HLS in particular and less support globally for unnecessary animal testing.

As a member of Last Chance for Animals, you were there with us. Your support, your donations are what allowed us to be present in this constant battle. It is because of you that we at LCA can further support our associate organizations like SHAC in their efforts and ultimately their successes.

We continue to be here, because you are with us. And for your boundless support, I thank you.

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Animal News

Good News for Greyhounds!

Last year LCA joined GREY2K USA, a national organization dedicated to ending the interstate racing of greyhound dogs. Together, we hired attorney Mark Herron to defeat a pro-racing initiative in Florida and we are thrilled to report that Mr. Herron was successful!

On March 14th, the Florida Supreme Court struck down a ballot initiative that would have legalized slot machines at Florida's 16 dog tracks. Track owners sought the inclusion of slot machines because profits are dwindling. Had the legislation passed, track owners would have been able to make hundreds of millions of dollars each year off of the slot machines. "These tracks are begging for additional revenue because they're

no longer a viable industry," says Carey Theil, president of Boston-based GREY2K USA. "Giving them life support through this legislation would have caused thousands of greyhounds to be bred and killed for racing purposes." Similar proposals are also being considered by legislatures in Arizona, Kansas, and Massachusetts, while New Hampshire lawmakers defeated another proposal earlier this year.

"Together, we have won our first big victory for the greyhounds!" says Theil. "Thanks to your support, we have defeated attempts by cruel dog track promoters to strengthen themselves [in Florida]." We at LCA couldn't be happier!

When the Supreme Court handed down their landmark decision, the dog tracks also lost a major battle in the Florida legislature. Only hours after the ruling, dog track supporters in both the State Senate and House of Representatives introduced last minute amend-

ments to unrelated bills that would have legalized slot machines at dog tracks. After the dog track representatives realized that they did not have enough support to pass their sneaky slot machines amendments, they quietly withdrew them and retreated. According to Theil, "This is another incredible victory for greyhound advocates! We must not rest, however, as the dog tracks are already busy looking for other ways to convince the Florida legislature to bail them out."

GREY2K USA has even more exciting news. GREY2K USA Vice President Christine Dorchak recently founded the GREY2K USA Education Fund, a sister organization dedicated to educating the public about greyhounds and greyhound racing. For more information, please visit www.GREY2KUSAedu.org.

To learn more about what you can do to help the nation's greyhounds, please visit:

• www.GREY2KUSA.org •

Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) is one of the world's largest private contract animal testing laboratories in the world. Its workers kill approximately 180,000 animals per year. At any time, there are over 70,000 animals imprisoned and suffering behind its walls. They include dogs, cats, wild-caught primates, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, fish, rats, mice, and farm animals. All creatures used in HLS's barbaric and worthless experiments are murdered at the end of their misery-filled lives. That's a reported 500 animals killed at HLS every day.

HLS has been the subject of five undercover investigations, all of which revealed the horrendous animal cruelty and incompetence that pervades the laboratories. Investigators have exposed HLS workers punching four-month-old Beagle puppies in the face, dissecting a live monkey and falsifying scientific data, as well as documenting animals sitting in their own congealed blood, feces and vomit, waiting to die.

HLS's areas of research include testing the toxicity of pesticides, herbicides, food colorings, household products, tanning lotions, diet drugs, and genetically modified organisms. These experiments often involve forcing a tube down the animal's throat and pouring chemicals into his or her stomach. In one lab report, some of the animals subjected to experiments were described by the vivisector as "rotting, but still alive." According to Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) activists, "HLS is popular amongst some of the most scandalous companies because HLS always manages to test these products with safe results. An HLS employee was caught by an undercover investigator, saying the reason HLS uses animal testing is so that the data can be manipulated."

SMASH

Huntingdon Life Sciences!

About Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty

SHAC USA was created in Autumn 2000 to focus pressure on the HLS laboratories in the U.S. (located in New Jersey) and the lab's growing number of U.S. shareholders and customers.

SHAC USA has succeeded in targeting the lab's financial backers and has staged a hard-hitting campaign that has brought HLS to the brink of foreclosure. Merrill Lynch, Charles Schwab, Citibank, and almost all of the lab's large investors have severed their ties with HLS. Those companies that still refuse to reconsider this affiliation have found themselves the target of phone and e-mail blockades, demonstrations, and other activities.

LCA's Involvement

Last Chance for Animals has been an integral part of the fight against HLS. We have utilized both our time and money toward freeing the helpless creatures inside HLS's cages. In October, LCA President Chris DeRose traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, to speak about the campaign and lend his support to help motivate activists working so tirelessly on behalf of the animals. They need *your* help as well.

Protest the Torture

Help end the agony of the countless animals inside HLS. Contact:

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty
P.O. Box 22398
Philadelphia, PA 19110
Phone: 1.888.354.2435
E-mail: shacusa@envirolink.org
Web: www.shacusa.net

pet safety legislation

In the ongoing battle which LCA has been waging against pet theft, we have reached a new plateau: The reintroduction of the Pet Safety and Protection Act by Congress.

Originally proposed in 1999 by Senator Akaka, it was written to debunk the rights and rescind the permits of B Dealers, those gutter-level individuals who target pets for theft and then resale into a tormented life of vivisection. After the Act's initial introduction in 1999, LCA supported the initiative by using the results of our National Pet Theft Awareness Day - held every February 14th - to bring greater attention to the proposed Act. Prior to 1999, LCA had used Pet Theft Awareness Day to specifically raise national consciousness on the problems of pet theft, to educate guardians on what steps they could take to protect their animal companions and to memorialize the many animals who are stolen each year.

This year, with over 250 animal protection groups across the country raising

awareness alongside us, we had our most successful National Pet Theft Awareness Day ever. In respect of our efforts, LCA successfully passed proclamations in the following cities: Baltimore, Maryland; Washington, D.C.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Raleigh, North Carolina; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona; Portland, Oregon; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Monica and West Hollywood, California, where the mayors proclaimed February 14th as Pet Theft Awareness Day for their city.

what you can do

It's never too late to join LCA in the fight against pet theft. If you would like to receive National Pet Theft Awareness Day materials to distribute in your community, please call us at (310) 271-6096 ext. 32, or e-mail Campaigns@LCAAnimal.org or visit www.StolenPets.com, the website we revamped for our 2002 campaign.

To participate in support of the recently repropoed Pet Safety and Protection Act, please contact your local Congressman by mail or e-mail. For specific contact information on your elected officials please call 1-(888) VOTESMART or visit www.congress.org to access specific information for your congressional representative.

Our more recent efforts in support of Congress on behalf of the Pet Safety and Protection Act took place when LCA President Chris DeRose traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with the staff of Congressmen Doyle and Palone. Meanwhile, LCA staff members in Los Angeles met with Congressman Sherman (of California) to solidify his support for this and his own proposed animal rights legislations.

LCA President Chris DeRose is proud to report that LCA's bitter court battle with the Coulston Foundation, one of the nation's most notorious primate testing facilities, has finally come to an end. In what he refers to as a great victory for Last Chance for Animals, DeRose remarks that he and Frederick Coulston (founder of the controversial lab) reached "a mutual agreement out of court" this past February. Although LCA has agreed to take down its website, www.CoulstonKillsChimps.com, we will continue to update members about Coulston and its documented mistreatment of animals. "We are," asserts DeRose, "the only organization who deposed Frederick Coulston and cost him tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees over the years. We were most definitely a terrible thorn in his side."

The termination of this lawsuit is only the latest in a series of setbacks suffered by the beleaguered lab in recent months. In December of last year, the Food and Drug Administration issued a second official warning letter informing Coulston that as long as its extensive Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) violations remain unresolved it would recommend rejecting any further studies the lab submits to the FDA for research permits. In the letter, officials stated that the violations were so damaging that Coulston's



LCA and Coulston Reach a Settlement

data was "compromised" and "not reliable for review of drug safety." The FDA issued its first warning letter to Coulston in December of 1999 for violating GLP practices, which are in place to ensure human safety and the validity of research data. The most recent warning states that these violations still have not been remedied and that the integrity of studies performed at the lab from that time (December 22, 1999) through today and into the future remains extremely speculative.

Coulston faced more bad news in January when the First National Bank of Alamogordo filed foreclosure papers against the lab which is in default for approximately \$1M in outstanding loans. Then, in February of this year, the United States Department of Agriculture once again cited Coulston for violating the Animal Welfare Act. During a January 16th inspection of the lab, officials found that the lab still had inadequate veterinary staffing. In fact, at that time there were only two veterinarians to care for 277 chim-

panzees and 65 monkeys at two different sites. USDA inspectors also reported that the lab was illegally housing 33 chimpanzees in single cages and that it did not have a working gas anesthesia machine. This was the eleventh finding of inadequate veterinary care in the last four years and illustrates just how fallible claims are that lab animals receive conscientious and compassionate care. "I'm confident that before too long Coulston will have no other choice but to go out of business," predicts DeRose.

Please contact the USDA and request that it revoke the Coulston Foundation's registration as a research facility. Write to:

Dr. Chester A. Gipson
Deputy Administrator of Animal Care
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Unit 97
4700 River Rd., Riverdale, Maryland 20737
Phone: (301) 734-4980 / Fax: (301) 734-4993
E-mail: Chester.A.Gipson@aphis.usda.gov

LCA Goes Under the Big Top

Recently an LCA undercover investigator went inside the Carson & Barnes Circus. During the 13 months he spent as a "barn man," he witnessed elephants being beaten with bullhooks, baseball bats, pitchforks, and other objects used in this case as weapons; an elephant named Opal had been shocked with a cattle prod over 208 times and other elephants were regularly "smacked upside the head and hit across the face."

The investigator spoke to L.A.'s KCAL-9 reporter David Goldstein about his experiences in a piece the television station titled "Big Top Beating?" "People don't want to understand what you need to do to get these elephants to stand on their heads and on their hind legs," he told Goldstein. "These are not natural behaviors." Goldstein then introduced footage of elephant trainer Tim Frisco yelling at another trainer, "Don't touch him;

hurt him! Make him scream! When you hear him screaming, then you know you got his attention." Sadly, elephants could indeed be heard screaming in the background of the footage.

LCA has also filed a complaint regarding the animal cruelty our investigator witnessed with the United States Department of Agriculture. But we need your help to end the



elephant found dead in trailer

LCA Arizona Takes on the University of Arizona

LCA is proud to announce the formation of LCA Arizona which is off to a great start! They have successfully organized outreaches for National Pet Theft Awareness Day and Meatout 2002, and have been instrumental in the fight to end research on dogs at the University of Arizona. LCA Arizona obtained thousands of pages of documents from the University disclosing experimentation on live animals and subsequently staged a demonstration at an American Heart Association fundraiser in protest of the AHA's funding of the U of A experiments. They also worked with the local chapter of Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to raise awareness about vivisection on campus. Please join LCA and LCA Arizona in demanding an end to the torture and killing of dogs at the University of Arizona. Write to:

abuse. Please contact the USDA and encourage them to file charges against the Carson & Barnes Circus. Politely state that as a taxpayer, you want the agency to do its best to stop the mistreatment of these and other highly intelligent, sentient creatures who are caught in the trappings of circuses such as Carson and Barnes. Contact:

Michael Rae
Acting Director USDA/APHIS/AC
1629 Blue Spruce, Suite 204
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80524
Phone: (970) 494-2573
Fax: (970) 494-2576

To learn more about this case, contact LCA's Director of Investigations at Investigations@LCAAnimal.org. To view undercover footage of Carson & Barnes animal cruelty, log onto: www.LCAAnimal.org.

LCA San Diego Wins Ban on Exotic Animal Display!

LCA has won another fight against traveling animal shows! Joy Zakarian, the President of LCA San Diego, along with other Southern California activists have won the fight for a ban on displaying exotic animals. On March 20th, the Encinitas City Council approved an ordinance banning the display of wild and exotic animals for public entertainment or amusement.

The ban excludes educational activities, and its violation is considered a misdemeanor. However, this important step which Joy and other animal activists have been working for is yet another aid to help protect elephants, llamas, and other animals from routinely being abused by circus trainers.

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Contact LCA for a sample letter; e-mail Campaigns@LCAAnimal.org or call (310) 271-6096 ext. 32. To learn more about LCA Arizona, visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~btida/LCA-Phoenix/LCA-Phoenix.html>.

Animal Updates

Justice for Max the Cat. *Fighting Chance* readers are sure to remember the story of Max, the two-year-old cat who was allegedly murdered by James Lacy, Sr., a parole officer with the California Youth Authority. Lacy was reportedly trespassing on the property of Max's guardian when Lacy's two unleashed German Shepherds attacked Max. Lacy then allegedly bludgeoned the cat with a golf club and a rock. On March 8th, Sacramento Deputy District Attorney Hilary Bagley dropped all charges against James Lacy, citing lack of evidence. Although the D.A. claims that Max was killed by a dog bite, Max's guardian Denice believes Max's necropsy tells a different story. Please contact Ms. Bagley and politely request that she prosecute Lacy; call (916) 874-5817 or e-mail BagleyH@SacCounty.net.

D.O.T. Stops Animal Skin Tests. LCA is happy to report that the Department of Transportation has discontinued tests in which researchers shaved rabbits' backs and poured corrosive chemicals onto their skin. The chemicals, which burned through their skin and sometimes even corroded their internal organs, were used in spite of the existence of Corrositex, a federally approved humane alternative. LCA organized a protest at the Department of Transportation last year during World Week for Animals in Laboratories in hopes of bringing attention to the horrific experiments. Thanks to demonstrations, letters from readers like you, and the hard work of our friends at PETA, these cruel tests have finally come to an end.

Almodovar Directs Animal Cruelty. In the last issue of *Fighting Chance*, we asked you to boycott famed Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's latest film, *Habla Con Ella*. Six bulls were reportedly tortured and killed during the shooting of a bullfighting scene. *Ecologistas en Accion* is filing a complaint addressed to the Education, Culture, and Sports Ministry and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (in the U.S.). You can send a letter in support of their complaint by e-mailing them at infocult@mcu.es and acacine@render.es respectively.

Teen Found Guilty of Chimp Shooting in Missouri. In the Summer 2001 issue of *Fighting Chance*, we brought you the story of Suzy, the 28-year-old chimpanzee who was shot by then 17-year-old Jason Coats. Coats, who reportedly had a history of violence against animals, shot Suzy in the back, then in the face at close range while her guardian begged him to stop. Suzy was taken to a vet, who opted to euthanize her due to the severity of her injuries. On December 13th, the now 18-year-old Coats was convicted of felony property damage and misdemeanor animal abuse in the shooting. Although the judge wanted to impose a harsher sentence on Coats, he was bound by the jury's recommendation of 30 days in jail. Accordingly, he ordered the teen to send handwritten letters to approximately 300 people who had written to the court demanding a stiffer sentence. Coats will begin serving his short sentence on June 1st, when school ends for the year.

Abused Puppy Still Needs Your Help

Many of you will remember the story of Thomas E. Spencer regarding the puppy he was arrested for beating. In December 2000, Spencer's girlfriend called police and told them that he had been beating their four-month-old puppy all day. When police arrived at the Georgia home of 54-year-old Spencer, they found Spencer punching the animal in the head repeatedly and heard the dog squealing in pain. Police charged Spencer with an ordinance violation and took the puppy to the vet. Unbelievably, they then returned the dog

to Spencer's home. The dog has since disappeared and Spencer has reportedly acquired another puppy. In bureaucratic red tape, Spencer's trial was set for March 27th where he was pleading not guilty and requesting a jury trial. This animal abuse case has not been taken seriously, being transferred from one prosecutor to another and still has yet to be tried. Please contact the D.A.'s office and request that Spencer be given a "specially set trial" (i.e., a more timely prosecution) to ensure that he is finally brought to justice.

Demand that he receive the harshest penalty allowed by law. Further request that the D.A.'s office prohibit him from ever "owning" animals again.

Prosecutor Rhonda Brodsky
Fulton County Government - Trial Division
141 Pryor St. Southwest, Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: (404) 730-4996 / Fax: (404) 730-5398

Judge Marvin Arrington
185 Central Ave., Suite 5655, Atlanta, GA 30303
Fax: (404) 730-6937

Animal Instinct

Featuring: Stella Blue

Art by: Christopher Ameruoso
Words by: Shaun Monson



The Canadian Cat Mutilation Trial

by Katie Woodward

(Toronto, Ontario, Canada) - One of approximately 70 videotapes seized by Metro police in early June 2001 shows a female cat being immobilized and mutilated by her captors after refusing to chase a mouse. Police entered the downtown Toronto-area home after a concerned neighbor filed a complaint about a crying cat. Upon arrival at the scene, police found the above-mentioned VHS tapes, the lifeless body of the cat hanging in the fridge, a live dog and several mice.

Jessie Champlain Powers, 21, is charged with three counts of animal cruelty, one count of mischief under \$5000.00, one count of theft and one count of killing animals. His accomplice,

24-year-old Anthony Ryan Wennekers, is charged with four counts of animal cruelty, two counts of mischief under \$5000.00, one count of theft and one count of killing animals. Both have pled guilty in court, although they have **not been cooperating with police in helping to find the third suspect.**



The third male, known only as "Matt," is white, in his mid-20s, about 5'10" with a slim build. He has light hair and blue eyes, and is known to hang around the Bathurst and Queen Street area.

According to one anonymous source present at the bail hearing, the video in question clearly shows the cat's prolonged suffering. "They were laughing when she tried to breathe through her partially slit windpipe." Earlier in the video Powers and Wennekers had unsuccessfully slit her throat with a dull knife. They then proceeded to stab her numerous times with an awl, slit her belly and disembowel her, extract her teeth with antiquated dental tools, nail her to a wall and beat her "to a pulp" with gloves that had ball bearings in the knuckles. The cat remained alive throughout the 15 minute ordeal and finally succumbed to her injuries a short time later.

On March 28th, to the anger of activists internationally, Wennekers walked with time-served (he had been in jail for 10 months) and Powers received 90 days in jail. The maximum jail sentence for animal cruelty stands at six months, while mischief carries a two-year jail sentence.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the third suspect, "Matt," can contact Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS, the Toronto Humane Society at (416) 392-2273 ext. 2142, or Toronto Police at (416) 808-1404. For more details and updates on this case, please visit www.LCAnimal.org.

LCA wants to better serve you. Please visit www.LCAnimal.org and

view "Campaigns" for additional information on our current campaigns and downloadable info that you can use to educate your family and friends on animal rights. Sign up for LCA's Action Alerts for the latest news on how you can speak out for animals. LCA President Chris DeRose's autobiography, *In Your Face: From Actor to Animal Activist*, can be purchased online in the merchandise section. Share your comments with us at Campaigns@LCAnimal.org to let us know how we can better use the Internet to help you help animals.

Have you visited www.LCAnimal.org lately?

Autos4Animals: Turning Cars into Care

*Donate your used vehicles to Last Chance for Animals!
It's quick...it's easy...it's tax-deductible!*

You can help save animal lives when you donate your used car, boat, RV, SUV, or van to LCA. 70% of each vehicle sale goes directly to LCA and into our programs aimed at alleviating animal cruelty and suffering everywhere.

Online: Visit www.Autos4Animals.org and complete the vehicle donation form. You will be contacted within 48 hours regarding your donation.

By phone: Call (310) 271-6096 ext. 26 to make your donation. E-mail: development@lcanimal.org

(Please Note: Vehicle acceptance is determined by the condition of the vehicle and the pick-up location).

Help raise awareness by using LCA checks. Checks imprinted with LCA's logo, pictures of animals, and messages such as "Please don't buy from companies that test products or ingredients on animals!" can be purchased through Message!Products. To order, visit their website, www.messageproducts.com, or call (800) 243-2565. Royalties from every order go directly to LCA.



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