

FIGHTING CHANCE

vol. 17, issue 2

As we approach the close of this year, it's a good time to look back on the challenges we faced and the victories we achieved for the animals. I am especially proud to share with you a great win for the primates – the closing of the Coulston Foundation.

Letter From LCA President



CHRIS DeROSE

LCA members are all too familiar with the ongoing story of Coulston, as we've been reporting to you on our campaign to shut that horrific facility down for some time now. Coulston held one of the worst records ever for primate care (see complete story in this issue), and I have long predicted that the lab would be forced to shut its doors – though I'm sorry to say it wasn't fast enough for so many of the primates who suffered there.

While various animal groups worked to help the Coulston primates, LCA took the early lead and implemented a variety of strategies including a confrontational web site that exposed the horrors at Coulston and an equally informative billboard near Coulston's Alamagordo, New Mexico, location (both of which Coulston illegally shut down). LCA later entered into a first amendment rights lawsuit against the Coulston Foundation that helped to greatly increase the strain on the facility's crumbling finances.

I'm happy to tell you that the remaining Coulston primates are now safe and will live out their lives in peace...the perfect end to the story. But there are many more stories out there, and so many more animals suffering and dying in laboratories. I've been in those labs and I've seen firsthand what is done to the animals...it's madness.

But I want you to know that there is hope and there are more victories to be won for the animals...as long as we keep working together. Without your involvement, an institution like Coulston could never have been defeated. Your letters, your phone calls, your donations, your belief and your commitment – that's how Coulston was overcome.

Now it's time to look to the future. That's why I'll be speaking at the December 1 SHAC protest against Hungtingdon Life Sciences (HLS) – a lab that tortures and kills more than 500 animals per day (see story inside). I'll be there to motivate and inspire the dedicated activists who have the dream of shutting down HLS the same way activists everywhere helped to shut down Coulston. And it will be done.

The victories of 2002 have made us stronger and will be carried with us as we look toward 2003. With your help and support, next year will be a great year for the animals.

For the animals,
Chris DeRose

IN THIS ISSUE

Coulston Victory

Class B Dealers Investigation

Pet Theft Awareness Day

Greyhounds Win

Cat Mutilation Case Follow-up

HLS Protest



THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT:

Targeting Class B Dealers

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is the heart of LCA. Its work is to retrieve the critical evidence that becomes the raw material for law enforcement action, public awareness campaigns, and support for legislation.



The SIU's current focus is on USDA-licensed Class B dealers who literally broker "random source" cats and dogs, selling them to research labs. These companion animals are strays picked up off the streets, animals fraudulently obtained through "free to good home ads," dogs and cats taken from humane societies through a practice known as "pound seizure," and animals who have been stolen. It is estimated that two million animals a year are stolen, with many of them going to research.

Through undercover investigations of Class B dealers, LCA has documented horrible abuses and clear violations of animal welfare laws. Sick, injured and dying dogs are given no veterinary care, the animals are kept in substandard housing and exposed to the elements year round, they are fed rotting food and kept in runs covered in feces and blood, and dogs have been beaten and even shot to death.

LCA is the leading animal advocacy organization investigating the issue of pet theft and the only organization conducting investigations and working with authorities to shut down Class B dealers. In fact, the SIU is implementing "Operation: No Mercy," a campaign that targets the top ten Class B dealers responsible for almost 90 percent of all random source dogs and cats sold to research. As Class B dealers show no mercy in their lack of care while kenneling thousands of animals before sending them to their deaths, LCA will show no mercy as the SIU works to investigate and shut down these dealers...one dealer at a time.

Operation: No Mercy is expected to run over a three-year period, however, support is needed to expand investigations. Please make a donation to Operation: No Mercy or become a "Friend of the SIU." See sidebar for details.

THE PET SAFETY & PROTECTION ACT

Another way to put an end to Class B dealers is by supporting the Pet Safety & Protection Act which amends the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit Class B dealers from supplying cats and dogs to research facilities. Write your senator(s) and representative today and ask them to co-sponsor this important bill. For legislator contact information, visit www.vote-smart.org or call **1-888-VOTESMART**.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE SIU

You can help LCA stop Class B dealers from sending dogs and cats to a cruel death in research labs. Become a Friend of the SIU by making a three-year pledge of \$1500 per year. As a "Friend" you will receive a replica SIU badge, quarterly insider updates on all SIU investigations, and immediate contact with breaking news. To receive a pledge form, please send an email to development@lcanimal.org or call **(310) 271-6096 x26**.



COULSTON CLOSES ITS DOORS FOREVER

LCA

In an important victory for the animals, the Coulston Foundation has shut its doors. And Last Chance for Animals is proud of its role as one of the first organizations to step into the battle against the notorious primate testing facility.

LCA President Chris DeRose couldn't have been more accurate when in the last issue of *Fighting Chance* he predicted that "before too long Coulston will have no other choice but to go out of business."

The Coulston Foundation is known for its utter disregard for the lives and welfare of the primates in its care. It was reported that Coulston was responsible for the painful deaths of more than 40 primates since 1993 – all as a result of carelessness and inadequate veterinary attention. We will never forget Donna who died after her uterus ruptured from carrying her dead fetus for up to two months or Gina who died after being locked outside in the searing heat for hours.



LCA's campaign to save the Coulston primates included everything from informants to educational web sites and aggressive billboards. The latter two sparked a first amendment rights lawsuit against Coulston by LCA after Coulston illegally shut them down. The billboard, located just outside of the Coulston facilities in Alamogordo, New Mexico, had featured the now-defunct LCA web site **www.CoulstonKillsChimps.com**, along with a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of researchers for animal cruelty, embezzlement or fraud.

The remaining 266 chimpanzees and 61 monkeys have been released to a sanctuary, the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care, where they will live out the rest of their lives free from the horrors of the lab. Although many of the primates will suffer emotional scars left by years of research, they are now out of harm's way.

Thank you to LCA's dedicated supporters for your efforts and continued assistance in working to close Coulston. Without your help this victory would not have been possible!

ANOTHER ANIMAL VICTORY ANOTHER STRIKE AGAINST CIRCUS CRUELTY

LCA is thrilled to report that yet another city – Huntington Beach, Calif. – has voted to ban the use or promotion of wild and exotic animals as entertainment. On November 18th, Huntington Beach joined four other California cities that have passed similar bans: Encinitas (an LCA-San Diego victory!), Pasadena, Corona, and Rohnert Park. The ordinance was passed by a vote of 6 to 1.

To help ensure a positive outcome, an LCA field investigator who worked undercover at the Carson & Barnes Circus testified in support of the ban, and television news coverage based on LCA's investigative work was shown. Huntington Beach became the first city in Orange County to pass such a ban; it is the third largest city in Orange County.

Congratulations to all the determined activists who helped get the ban passed!

HAVE A HEART

*What Will You Be
Doing for National
Pet Theft
Awareness
Day?*

Pet theft is epidemic. Each year, an estimated two million companion animals are stolen, with many of these animals being sold to research.

In order to bring attention to the pet theft issue, each year LCA presents Have a Heart: National Pet Theft Awareness Day on February 14th (yes, Valentine's Day!). The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of pet theft, educate animal guardians on how they can protect their own animals, and pay tribute to the large numbers of animals who are stolen each year.

LCA invites you to join us for Pet Theft Awareness Day 2003. Last year over 250 animal protection organizations and individuals joined LCA and participated by hosting information tables, writing letters in support of the Pet Safety & Protection Act, and organizing special events to mark the day.

It was deemed the most successful Pet Theft Awareness Day ever!

For more information on how to keep your animal companion safe visit www.StolenPets.org. There you'll find tips on what to do should your pet be stolen, and much more.



GET INVOLVED:

- For campaign materials and information on becoming a participant in Pet Theft Awareness Day, please send an email to campaigns@lcanimal.org or call **1-888-88ANIMAL x32**.

- Write your senator(s) and representative in support of the Pet Safety & Protection Act. For contact information on your elected officials, call **1-888-VOTESMART** or visit www.vote-smart.org

- Visit www.LCAAnimal.org for more information on pet theft as well as our satellite site www.StolenPets.org.

Coming Soon: Special Pet Theft Awareness Day/Valentine's gift items to be featured exclusively on LCA's web site!

HISTORIC HLS PROTEST

On December 1, 2002, Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), one of the world's most notorious product testing labs (with two facilities in England and one in America), will mark the 50th year of its cruel "business." More than one undercover investigation has documented horrific animal cruelty at HLS – a lab that tortures and kills 500 animals a day to test products like food sweeteners, diet drugs, and sun tan lotions.

To help commemorate this odious anniversary, SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Life Sciences) is throwing its own event – an historic protest – at the HLS lab in East Millstone, New Jersey. And LCA will be right there with them.

On November 30, LCA is sponsoring "Portrait of an Activist: An Evening Speaking Forum," which will showcase some of the most influential men and women of the animal rights movement – and is hosted by LCA's own Chris DeRose. Then on December 1, Chris will be the keynote speaker at the protest rally, addressing the activists dedicated to closing HLS.

"SHAC has been on the front lines fighting these horrors and LCA stands alongside them in this battle," says Chris DeRose. "If we can't fight for what is right then we have no business calling ourselves activists."

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- To learn more about vivisection, visit www.LCAAnimal.org.
- See www.shacusa.net for information on the campaign to close HLS.
- Only use products that have not been tested on animals.

LCA HELPS HORSES



LCA sends its thanks to everyone who responded to our special appeal to help nearly 400 horses in need.

These gentle animals were in danger of being sent to auction (and certain slaughter) before The United Pegasus Foundation stepped in to save them...but they still needed more help. LCA's appeal produced much needed funds that went directly to buying feed for the mainly elderly and/or disabled horses.

The United Pegasus Foundation still needs help feeding and caring for these horses. Visit their web site at www.unitedpegasus.com/Equus.html

GREYHOUNDS WIN IN ARIZONA



This fall, LCA joined with the Arizona Greyhound Protection Alliance to bring about an important victory in Arizona. On November 5, Proposition 201 was soundly defeated by an 80-20 margin. This measure would have legalized slot machines at greyhound racing tracks, thereby subsidizing the racing industry and perpetuating this cruel business. Thousands of greyhounds are destroyed each year because "they are no longer fast enough to turn a profit."

"Proposition 201 was soundly defeated by the combined efforts of many organizations including Last Chance for Animals," says Christine Dorchak, vice president of GREY2K USA (with whom LCA has frequently partnered to help greyhounds). "Like cockfighting and dogfighting, dog racing is inherently cruel and inhumane. For the sake of thousands of greyhound dogs, it must be outlawed." For more information, visit www.LCAAnimal.org or www.grey2kusa.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Make a generous donation to LCA and help support our animal protection campaigns. To donate online visit www.lcanimal.org/donate.htm.

LCA ARIZONA REPORT

LCA-Arizona continues to fight against vivisection at the University of Arizona. Since our last report in Fighting Chance, there have been some new developments.

On October 24 LCA-Arizona distributed a press release regarding the discovery of gross practice violations that had occurred at the University of Arizona during the course of approximately one month. You may recall that the university has been conducting experiments on dogs in research projects and teaching labs, including some of the most invasive and painful biomedical and toxicological studies. Some of these are "Column E" experiments which allow for the greatest amount of severe, unremitting pain.

According to a report from the FDA, between September 9, 2000, and October 8, 2000, there were 18 violations including failure to properly identify the

test subjects (in this case dogs were used), failure to calibrate, clean and properly maintain equipment, and failure to produce complete data records. There was also a known history of the lab "mixing up" animals, however, no action was taken to remedy the problem.

As quoted from the press release: "Results of the FDA investigation could lead to serious sanctions against the University of Arizona, including prohibiting any researcher at the university from conducting studies on animals as a step to FDA approval of medical devices and drugs."

There has been no decision yet as to what action, if any, the FDA will take.

ACTION TO TAKE:

- For more info, visit www.uofazkillsdogs.com or www.LCA-Arizona.org.
- Sign the on-line petition at www.petitiononline.com/tg8lca/petition.html.

FOLLOW-UP: CANADIAN CAT MUTILATION CASE

by Katie Woodward

LCA



In the last issue of Fighting Chance I wrote an article, "The Canadian Cat Mutilation Trial," about three young Toronto men who savagely mutilated and tortured a tame female house cat while capturing their actions on video.



Last April, co-abusers Jesse Power and Anthony Wennekers received maddeningly weak sentences from Judge Edward Ormston for their involvement in the cat's death. (Thanks to tremendous public outcry, Jesse Power is having his sentence appealed.) The third man, "Matt," has never been found and brought to justice.

So last May I started the "Find Matt" campaign to aid police in their search for this remorseless animal killer. I created a web site, www.findmatt.org, containing detailed information on the case, and I provide free "wanted" posters showing Matt's face. I've also been generating media coverage to keep this case before the public. The more people who know about Matt, the sooner he will be caught.

"The search [for Matt] continues," says Detective Gord Scott of Toronto Police 14 Division. "My sense is that he may be out west, perhaps in the Vancouver area, but we've had absolutely no assistance from the two idiots we convicted. And no fresh leads in quite some time. But we are not giving up."

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Visit www.findmatt.org for more information.
- If you live in the U.S. and have friends in Canada, tell them about the "Find Matt" campaign.
- No matter where you live, be aware of animal abuse and report any suspected abuse to your local police.

LAST MINUTE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA!

Give the gift of compassion. For a minimum donation of \$25, LCA will send a handsome gift card to your chosen loved one, friend or business colleague, saying you have made a generous contribution in his or her name. By calling LCA at (310) 271-6096 x25, you can use your credit card to make an immediate donation and ensure timely holiday delivery.

Autos4Animals: Turning Cars into Care

You can help save animal lives when you donate your used car, boat, RV, SUV or van to LCA. It's quick...it's easy...it's tax deductible. 70% of each vehicle sale goes directly to our programs aimed at ending animal cruelty and suffering.

Online: Visit www.Autos4Animals.org and submit the vehicle donation form.

By Phone: Call **1-888-88ANIMAL x25**

Via E-mail: development2@lcanimal.org

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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.

Last Chance for Animals

8033 W. Sunset Blvd., #835

Los Angeles, CA 90046

Phone: (310) 271-6096

Fax: (310) 271-1890

email: info@LCAAnimal.org

web: www.LCAAnimal.org

