Fighting Chance

Victory at Gettysburg!

We came. We sued. We won.

In 1995, Last Chance for Animals learned that the National Park Service was about to engage in a slaughter of deer at Gettysburg National Military Park. We tried to stop them with public pressure, but it didn't work. LCA President Chris DeRose sneaked into the park in the middle of winter and secretly recorded evidence of their hideous late-night hunting techniques. LCA passed the graphic images on to national media, but that didn't stop the deer hunt either. Last Chance for Animals gathered local residents, found the support of two other animal organizations, and we led a lawsuit against the National Park Service for what we knew was an illegal slaughter of deer on sacred memorial grounds. After nearly a thousand deer perished, a U.S. District court judge in Washington, DC, finally ordered the killing to immediately stop. This is a victory not only for the remaining deer in Gettysburg Park, but it sends a powerful statement to all other National Parks that we won't tolerate the slaughter of our nation's wildlife.

see page 5 for a special behind-the-scenes look by Chris DeRose about LCA's two-year battle at Gettysburg.

In good company...

No humane being, past the thoughtless age of boyhood, will wantonly murder a creature who holds its life by the same tenure that he does.

—Henry David Thoreau
President's Message

The end of the year is approaching, and as president of Last Chance for Animals, I'm proud to be able to tell our supporters that we've achieved major victories for the animals. In this newsletter you'll read about our involvement at Gettysburg to save the deer. We succeeded in introducing and pushing H.R. 594 into Congress this year, displaying our ongoing dedication and leadership to attack pet-theft at its roots: the USDA. We educated millions of people through public awareness campaigns and national media attention. We staged countless demonstrations to speak against animal exploitation. Duncan Publishing released and launched my own personal autobiography in September, and it has already sold thousands of copies—titled "In Your Face" (see page 7 for more info about my book).

LCA saw a big change this year upon receiving the resignation of David Meyer as Executive Director. After three years of his hard work to build LCA, David decided to pursue another passion, but he still remains in touch with us and continues to be a positive influence on the organization. LCA sought a worthy replacement in the Executive Director position and found Eric Mindel, who was living in northern California. Eric has an extensive background in animal rights issues along with a vast knowledge of non-profit organizations. I've been very impressed with what he's accomplished in just the past few months, and I know our supporters will be equally impressed with what LCA achieves in the future under his management.

This was another great year of growth and achievements for the animals. My own passion for helping animals and fighting injustice is as strong as it's ever been, and I hope you'll keep giving LCA the support so we can all see amazing victories for animals.

On behalf of LCA, happy holidays to your loved ones, especially to the furry ones.

Chris DeRose

A Day in the Park

On a beautiful Sunday this past summer, Last Chance for Animals and American Veterinary Identification Devices (AVID) sponsored "A Day in the Park" at Plummer Park in West Hollywood. Dr. Dan Parmer, an AVID veterinarian, came to town that day just to donate his services and microchip animals. As part of Last Chance for Animals' ongoing campaign against Pet Theft, this was a drive to have as many animals microchipped as possible. The chip is a tiny computer chip about the size of a grain of rice which has an identification number programmed into it. The chip is placed into a hypodermic needle and injected under the skin of the animal where it safely stays for life, providing a permanent, positive identification that cannot be lost, altered or removed and does not migrate in the animal's body.

The turnout was great, and more companion animals should have this chip injected. Millions of animals are lost, missing or stolen across the country. Unfortunately, pets are lost or stolen from a third of all families. More tragically, only 10% of the lost animals are ever identified and returned home.

If a group in your area would like to sponsor "A Day in the Park," call AVID: (800) 336-2843. Do it for the animals.

You're giving animals a fighting chance if you: donate!

If you're having a tough time selling land or real property, please consider writing off its market value by donating it to Last Chance for Animals.

Call (310) 271-6096.
The Last Battle at Gettysburg

We received a call from an LCA supporter from the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The person told us that the Gettysburg National Military Park was going to start mass-slaughtering the deer living in the park. They had apparently done a bogus Environmental Impact Report that said the deer were destroying the look of the battlefield compared to how it looked in 1863.

It seemed odd to me that anyone would have bought that reasoning. I guess all those paved roads and streetlights, the 1400 concrete and steel monuments, hundred-foot steel tower, 3-story modern office buildings, and the parade of buses and cars carrying millions of tourists who constantly dump their garbage were not altering the look of this battlefield, but the deer were.

I knew there must have been another reason for this pending slaughter. Was it money, big business, or development? Was it because the authorities were insensitive or sadistic? Or was it because they just thought they could get away with it? It seemed like all those reasons were correct, but what could be done about it?

It didn’t look like anyone wanted to take on the National Park Service (NPS) or didn’t feel it was important enough. I don’t know. But what I did know is that if the NPS did get its way, the deer slaughter would set a precedent to massacre protected animals in national parks that belong to all of us.

After 19 years of working to protect animals, I guess I’m still a little naive. I thought LCA could easily nip this in the bud before it started by voicing our concerns. Wrong! Then I thought all I had to do was expose the situation, and it would come to a halt. Wrong again!

We began what would be a very long, tedious, cold, shocking, and unbelievably sad investigation—sneaking into the Gettysburg National Park and documenting the killings with video and still photos. I was there when the first shot was fired on this hallowed ground since the Civil War. I watched and documented the first casualty of this 21st Century slaughter.

I saw how the Park Service people conducted themselves in this carnage. They not only baited these peaceful animals to where shooters perched in tree stands with rifles, determined to blow away deer, but they also began herding them from trucks at night with spotlights blinding them and wiping out complete families at a time.

After four weeks of sitting night after cold night buried in camouflage, I had collected enough shocking visual proof to start a powerful media blitz. I had photographed and documented numerous small fawns and does who were left wounded in the fields only to crawl to the nearest tree lot to suffer and die.

With national media coverage on this by Hard Copy and CNN, it still wasn’t enough to stop the deer slaughter. The Park continued its campaign.

LCA worked to unify the Gettysburg people who opposed the shooting. They didn’t want to see dead deer in their backyards, nor did they like panicked animals running through the streets. With the residents who came forward, LCA began another battle in federal court, represented by civil rights attorney Kathy Meyer. After two long years battling a new war at Gettysburg, after 858 deer were ruthlessly killed in our National Park, I’m proud to tell you, our supporters, that we finally won!

This is a perfect example of perseverance by LCA and the residents of Gettysburg. Without them, we may still be fighting and more deer would be dying. I thank these people and all of you for your support to make this victory a reality. We have together kept the National Park Service from setting a dangerous precedent.

We together showed them they have NO right to dictate policies that destroy wildlife that belongs to all Americans, and LCA won’t stand idly by and let it happen.

Nine BILLION animals suffer and die to feed Americans—that’s more than 280 every second.

You’re giving animals a fighting chance when you: eat with care

Especially for people who rescue animals: beware of fuzzy laws.

The importance of screening adoptive homes for animals is twofold. There is first and foremost the moral issue of preventing the animals from getting into the wrong hands. However, in a world complex with litigation, there is a growing trend to sue for damages caused by adopted animals and this includes rescuers as well as the family that can no longer keep their pet. This by no means is reason to be afraid to place an animal. It means that you must be careful how you do it.

The obvious includes finding out why people want an animal; this breed, or breed type, size, age, and activity level. Also of importance is the experience of the person or family with this particular type of animal. Can they handle the responsibilities of this animal; including the cost of food and care, toys, and veterinary expenses? I was very surprised to learn that purebreds animals tend to "break down" much more than mixed breeds, though purebreds are more predictable in regard to what they will become when they mature and how they will look.

You need to ask things like, "What if you can no longer keep this animal?" (this includes moving to a different type of place; "What if you become sick or die?"; "Who would you give the animal to?"; "Will you let me know if you no longer want this animal and be willing to let me assist you in the placement of him or her?"

Protecting the animal who is going to be adopted is very important. We all know the potential consequences of a bad placement. The issue becomes how strict you get in setting standards and adoption criteria. As an attorney practicing animal law, I very often get calls from or about adoptees who are about to sue, or about to be sued by rescue places for breaches of the adoption agreement. My best advice is to be reasonable and not so hung up on being your "brother's keeper," so to say.

Animal people come in as many different varieties as do the animals to be placed. Adoptees can tell the difference between the caring adopter and the righteous, trying to control the lives of others on the theory it is to protect the animals. Too many legal fights are the result of attitude and stubbornness, rather than the merits of the respective party's rights and obligations. Beware: If you try to exclude the disabled or the elderly from receiving animals, get ready to defend a lawsuit based upon a violation of federal and/or state anti-discrimination laws. Just because a person is young and healthy does not guarantee that they will be so tomorrow. That is an example of being too righteous.

Will they sue you? is a valid concern. There is a trend in the law allowing people to recover monetary compensation for damages or injuries caused by prior owners of property. This can include the sale or placement of an animal. This includes the scenario wherein the adoptee and you are sued when the adoptee places the animal with another and damages happen, and you become a defendant in the lawsuit too. To protect yourself, you can prepare a description of all of the pertinent information about the animal for them to read and acknowledge; make a short agreement, covering the issues you are concerned about; prepare a release of liability and disclaimer, including "hold-harmless" type clauses.

Agreements should not be so long and detailed as to frighten the new potential adoptee, nor too short, as to not work for you. Releases and limits of liability, not against public policy, should work. Disclaiming liability and knowledge of other than disclosed details should also work. Hold-Harmless, Indemnity, and Contribution clauses state that if you become liable for the acts or omissions of the adoptee, they must pay you back the losses incurred, or part of same.

The bottom line is notice to the potential adoptee. People do not usually want to sue if you have carefully advised them as to what they are getting into or if you present yourself as sorry if a problem arises, as opposed to blaming them for the problem that has arisen.

Alicia Silverstone teams up with LCA to express her concern for overpopulation

Shortly after Labor Day, LCA launched a new spay/neuter campaign featuring accomplished actress Alicia Silverstone. MANY thanks to AMC theaters for donating $167,000 worth of pre-movie slide advertising time on 683 screens for an eight-week run!

Mr. Rotsten and a friend

The above information is based upon general principles of law that may or may not apply to your particular situation. The purpose of such is to think about and utilize the information and not rely upon it without assistance of an attorney versed in the area of animal law. © 1997 Michael Rotsten, Esq., Encino, CA (9/97), Animal Rights Law Office.
Eternal Chance for Animals

Please check one:

Who should get your money?
☐ the IRS
☐ the animals

Last Chance for Animals encourages its supporters to seek information that will allow them to plan their estates with maximum benefit to themselves, their heirs, and their charitable interests.

Most people are familiar with bequests, leaving a gift to a charity in a will. But not many people realize there are so many other options available to them that not only can help a charitable cause but also help themselves in the process. Last Chance for Animals does rely on donations and gifts for its work to help animals, but we also want to make sure YOU are receiving the maximum possible benefit from your generous gift.

In the commonly example of a bequest, a person leaves a portion of his or her estate to benefit an organization. This person has made an incredibly generous gesture that will certainly help animals, but that same person receives absolutely no financial benefit from the gift. If the gift is a significant one, the person may wish to find another way to make a gift to remember animals in his/her estate.

For example, the gift can be made while the person is still alive, and the money may be held in a trust account. It can even be set up that the person receives the revenue (e.g., interest from the account) every year for the rest of his or her life. In this example, the organization receives the same amount of money as would have been left via a bequest, but now there's an incredible benefit to the donor...the person can make a sizable tax-deduction when the trust account is established, and this could potentially save the person thousands of dollars in income tax.

This is just one example of many different options available to people who wish to put together an estate plan that maximizes benefits both to their favorite charities as well as to themselves.

If you're interested in learning more about estate planning to ensure your money benefits animals and not the IRS, please contact LCA Executive Director Eric Mindel at (310) 271-6096. Though LCA will not give you legal advice, we would be happy to refer you to our Estate Planning Specialist who will identify your own needs and interests above all else.

Though our first concern is for the welfare of animals, a close second is our concern for the welfare of our supporters.

High Taxes Bugging You?
Cut Your Taxes and Give Animals a Chance

Last Chance for Animals is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity, and that means your gifts to help the animals are tax-deductible for you. Tax laws favor charitable giving, so there are many ways in which you can make contributions to Last Chance for Animals' work and lessen your tax burden at the same time.

Is It Better to Give Than Receive?

Why worry yourself with this question when you can do both! Gifts of cash, personal property such as jewelry, works of art, and real estate are all tax-deductible to different extents and can also result in less estate taxes upon your death. Life insurance policies, retirement plans and charitable trusts are just a few other ways you can receive tax benefits while helping to end animal suffering.

Stocking Up On Tax Deductions

Your gift of stocks or bonds gets you an immediate tax deduction on their appreciated value, and you can avoid capital gains taxes while you're at it!

For more information on how you can give animals (and your pocketbook) a chance, call us toll-free at 1(888) 88-ANIMALS.

You're giving animals a fighting chance if you:
start an LCA chapter

You can establish a chapter of Last Chance for Animals in your area. Call us and ask for LCA Chapter Information.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Our thanks goes to Madhu, long-time LCA supporter and owner of Dasaprakash South India Cuisine (12217 Santa Monica Blvd. in Los Angeles and 11321 E. 183rd Street in Cerritos, CA), restaurants serving only delicious vegetarian cuisine. Please contact us to let us know how you've developed YOUR business to avoid animal suffering.

Help us help the animals.

Check your donation amount. Thank you.

☐ $20  ☐ $50  ☐ $100

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone

Send your check or money order to:
Last Chance for Animals
8033 Sunset Blvd., #35
Los Angeles, CA 90046

Donations may also be made by Visa or MasterCard by calling LCA at (888) 88-ANIMAL.
McMeat is not a happy meal...

Last Chance for Animals and the international organization Pure Food Campaign teamed up on October 4 to hold the largest McDonald's restaurant demo seen in years in southern California. Armed with posters and banners, animal activists and human rights activists joined forces to show the public why McDonald's restaurants really serve Unhappy Meals... for both animals AND people.

The event's platform requested McDonald's to stop using meat from downed cows, to stop using meat from cows fed animal-rendered protein, to stop using meat from cows injected with rBGH, and to introduce a vegetarian burger in 2% of its U.S. restaurants by 1999.

McDonald's failed to respond to all concerns and requests, and the corporation also failed to return letters and calls. It's imperative to continue with such demands until public concerns are acknowledged by McDonald's.

If you're interested in staging a similar protest at your community's McDonald's restaurant, please contact LCA, and we'll send you flyers and literature to enhance your efforts, along with tips for a successful event.

In good company...

We consume the carcasses of creatures of like appetites, passions and organs with our own, and fill the slaughterhouses daily with screams of pain and fear.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Californians Address Traps, Poisons, and Horse Slaughter

California volunteers are needed to help gather signatures for two ballot initiatives planned for 1998. The first initiative attempts to reclassify the horse as a companion animal, thereby ending the slaughter of equines in the state for human consumption abroad. Interested people can contact Save the Horses, Volunteer Coordinator, PO Box 307, Seal Beach, CA 90740, or by calling (415) 273-6070.

The second initiative will make it illegal to use steel-jaw traps for purposes of recreation and fur, and will outlaw Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide to kill predatory animals. California residents are encouraged to gather signatures (650,000 are needed by the end of January 1998) in order to get the measure on the ballot for the state's voters to decide. Contact Pro-Paw, (310) 207-7706 or e-mail propaw@ix.netcom.com.

No Annual Fee! If you transfer a balance. 13.9% Fixed APR!

Support

Last Chance For Animals and save money, too!

Call (800) 367-7297, Ext.0259

Apply today for your Action for Animals MasterCard — the only credit card that earns money for the animal organization of your choice while saving money for you! Transfer the balances from your other credit cards or loans to provide additional funding for animals. Your special benefits include:

- Travel Accident Insurance
- Sales Price Guarantee
- Purchase Guard™
- Purchase Replacement™

Annual membership fee: None, if you transfer at least one balance now; otherwise $20. A fixed rate of 13.9% for purchases and balance transfers. Cash advance APR: fixed rate of 19.9%. Cash advance fee: 2% of the cash advance amount, $2 minimum. The information about the cost of the card is accurate as of 04/98. This information may have changed after that date. To find out what may have changed, call 800-367-7297. The Action for Animals MasterCard is issued through Capital One® Bank. Capital One is a service mark of Capital One Financial Corporation.
BOOKS & VIDEOS

**IN YOUR FACE** by Chris DeRose. This is the riveting story, in Chris' own words, of how one man created an organization responsible for unprecedented achievements in animal protection issues. Chris talks about his childhood and his rise to awareness about animal issues, about staging protests and investigations that not only got him arrested eleven times but also thrown in jail four times, and about the sacrifices and danger he faced in his effort to expose the truth about the injustices animals suffer. *In Your Face* is not a dry documentary but rather a passionate narration, an autobiography, of both his triumphs and tribulations, as Chris fights for animals. Hardcover $21 (or a $100 or more donation will get a free book, personally addressed and signed by Chris). #LCA-1.

**VEGAN, THE NEW ETHICS OF EATING** by Erik Marcus. One of the most thorough, current, and easily-read books explaining the reasons why a vegan diet should be a person's only choice: for health, for the earth, for animals. Includes well-researched sections about Mad Cow Disease, factory farming, and nutrition. A must-read for all people who want to learn about vegetarianism. Softback $14.95. #LCA-2.

LCA: DIRECT ACTION IN PERSPECTIVE (© 1990). A video produced by LCA, placing civil disobedience in historic, contemporary, and strategic perspectives. The subject is presented in terms simple to understand, easy to apply, and germane to any social justice movement. It shows actual footage of civil disobedience maneuvers employed in animal issues. This video is produced to provide information about the history of civil disobedience and should not be viewed as an endorsement of illegal activity. VHS, 30 minutes. $10.00. #LCA-3.

TEE-SHIRTS

Tee-shirts are $14 each and available in limited quantities and sizes. Specify S, M, L, XL.

- "Pet Theft Sucks" front print, "Adidas" back print. #LCA-4
- LCA logo front, "War Declared on Vivisection," back print. #LCA-5

MINI-CRITTERS

Our adorable mini-critters have a lot to say, too. Leave them on your desk for your colleagues to notice and learn from. Specify: cow ("Dairy is scary") #LCA-6; pig ("Don't eat meat") #LCA-7; elephant ("End circus cruelty") #LCA-8. $4.50 each or $12 for all three.

MUGS

NEW! LCA 17-oz. "deluxe," very sharp-looking plastic commuter mug with lid. Fits in cup holders and handles hot/cold beverages. Black, maroon or dark blue. $9.50. Specify color. #LCA-9

BROCHURES & BUMPER STICKERS

LCA offers a variety of educational and public outreach brochures. Topics include: Cruelty-free shopping guide (#LCA-10); choosing a vegan diet (#LCA-11); voices of reason (#LCA-12); UCLA brain research institute (#LCA-13); about Last Chance for Animals (#LCA-14); anti-fur (#LCA-15); and pet theft cover-up (#LCA-16). Single brochures are FREE or $10 per bulk quantities of 100.

**LOVE ANIMALS? THEN DON'T EAT THEM!**

FUR—Violent Fashion for the Cruel-at-Heart

This is NOT a research tool!

Milk. It does NO body good. Not yours, not hers.

LCA GIFT ORDER FORM (call for faster delivery!)

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Please bill me to Visa or MasterCard

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Shipping UPS (no P.O. boxes). Allow approx. 2-3 weeks for delivery.

$4.00 for under $25 total
$6.00 for under $75 total
$8.00 for over $75 total

Order form can be mailed, faxed, or phoned with check enclosed or MasterCard/Visa.
Researchers Address Pet Theft Issues

For this update on our Pet Theft campaign, LCA will let the Foundation for Biomedical Research address our members with excerpts taken from its Fact Sheet entitled "Pet Theft: Myth or Fact?"

"The notion of shadowy figures who cruise around residential neighborhoods luring pets into vans and selling them to research labs persists as a kind of urban legend. Unfortunately it's all too often true.

"A figure frequently cited by animal rights activists is that up to 2 million pet dogs and cats are stolen every year for use in medical research laboratories. This estimate is likely too high, given the facts.

"The Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing in its Fall 1994 newsletter concedes that there is "haphazard reporting of laboratory animal use in the U.S." and it is therefore "difficult to prove or disprove the claim" regarding the totals of animals used.

"Although some animals are specifically bred for research and were never anyone's pet, "random source" dogs and cats are less expensive and tend to be more socialized, and are therefore preferred for laboratory use. A majority of dogs and cats used are random source, and probably only 600,000 are actually stolen or fraudulently obtained.

"Inspections of B Dealer facilities across the country have displayed startling numbers of both humane care and record keeping violations. A January 5, 1995, USDA Office of Inspector General report shows that USDA tracebacks which are designed to verify the legal acquisition of random source animals routinely reveal that animals were acquired illegally and from unknown sources.

"Since the only documented cases of pet theft and fraudulent acquisition have been brought to light by individual animal rights organizations, it is likely that far more cases exist but have not yet been uncovered.

"Financial realities still make it attractive to purchase from Class B dealers, whatever the origin of their animals may be. Research facilities cannot be responsible for monitoring Class B dealers, therefore they can avoid the blame of using stolen animals. Even an animal that reaches the research facility bearing a collar or tattoo can be seen as having been voluntarily relinquished for research.

"Researchers are no different from anyone else; probably more than half of them have pets of their own. Of course, it is true that the average pet owner is not paid to experiment on companion animals, but the real issue to communicate to the public is that researchers are unfairly attacked by animal rights extremists.”

If LCA is unfair about pet theft, our greatest gain is that people are more responsible in watching their companion animals. If the animal research community is unfair, their biggest gain is continuing to receive billions of dollars in funding. Who's more likely to report exaggerated information?

LCA does respect the Foundation for Biomedical Research's acknowledgment of the pressing pet theft issue, which is more than most other animal research institutions have done. Of course, no level of animal research is acceptable, especially involving the use of pets.