Celebrities Urge Congress to Pass Pet Safety and Protection Act

On a day that was set aside for people to cherish the ones they love, First Brother Roger Clinton, Olympic Gold Medalist Greg Louganis, screen legend Tippi Hedren, and "Exorcist" star Linda Blair teamed up with Last Chance for Animals at a Valentine's Day press conference. The press conference was called to kick-off Last Chance for Animals’ campaign to pass the recently introduced HR 594, the Pet Safety and Protection Act. HR 594 is a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that will end the heartbreaking crime of family pets being stolen for sale into laboratory experimentation. The Valentine’s theme event was held under the Hollywood sign, at Lake Hollywood Park, a place Hollywood residents call “The dog park to the stars.” At the conference, stars and their pets, Michelle Zelman, a victim of pet theft, and Last Chance for Animals president Chris DeRose, spoke to the media, urging Congress to pass the Act.

Standing next to a heart shaped sign that read “No stolen pets for research,” movie maven Tippi Hedren spoke from the stage to a crowd of cameras, media representatives, and Last Chance for Animals supporters. Hedren touched on her own work of animal protection saying, “I founded the Shambala Preserve to provide a home for exotic big cats and African elephants in need of safety, sanctuary, and security. It saddens me that the everyday dog or cat is not even safe in his own home or front yard. I’m here on Valentine's Day to urge Congress to have a heart and move to pass the Pet Safety and Protection Act. Put an end to this heartbreak. Make the home a sanctuary for our pets.”

The reason and importance of the event was underscored by the number of dogs at the conference. Some, like Linda Blair’s Peanut, were with their celebrity companions, while others were with Last Chance for Animals supporters. Quite a few Hollywood residents and their pooches out for a morning stroll joined in and voiced their support. Among the passers-by who joined in was Saturday Night Live alum Kevin Nealon, who jumped right in to talk with reporters and lend his support to the bill.

Flanked by two of his great danes, Greg Louganis posed for celebrity photographers and spoke to TV cameras about the importance of the Pet Safety and Protection Act. “No matter what your feelings on the hot-button issue of animal experimentation are, we can all agree that people’s stolen pets are off limits when it comes to research. When you mess with my dogs, you mess with my family. Congress needs to dive-in on this issue and enact HR 594, the Pet Safety and Protection Act,” Louganis said to the media.

When he wasn't busy untangling himself from...
President's Message

For most, Summer is a time of relaxation and reflection. School children spend lazy summer days playing in the sun and families take time out to vacation from the hustle and bustle of day to day life. But here at Last Chance for Animals things are not slowing down.

We're continuing our relentless battle to keep stolen pets out of experimental laboratories. Our campaign to pass the Pet Safety and Protection Act is up and running in almost every state in the union. Our campaign stretches from the halls of the Capitol in Washington D.C., to even the most rural of congressional districts in the heartland. We're spearheading a coalition effort that is made up of literally hundreds of animal rights, animal welfare, and animal protection organizations around the nation.

An understanding of how the gears of power turn in Washington naturally lead us to our strategy of working closely with people and organizations in key congressional districts. An understanding of how the gears of power turn in Washington naturally lead us to our strategy of working closely with people and organizations in key congressional districts to generate local support in the form of phone calls, letters and constituent meetings with key legislators. We've combined that targeted local focus with the "inside the beltway" savvy of D.C. based organizations such as the Animal Welfare Institute. In all my years in the animal rights movement, I don't believe I've seen a more coordinated, cooperative, and cohesive coalition effort.

I'm proud of the work that Last Chance for Animals has done on this issue, but that work is far from over. We are still working to see the Pet Safety and Protection Act introduced into the Senate. Now, more than ever, we need your support and involvement to see this fight through.

For the animals,

Chris DeRose

Stolen pets are being sold for experimentation. What is your pet's safety worth to you?

Most of us couldn't put a dollar value on the love our pets give us — they're priceless parts of our families. But to a thief, they're easy cash, as much as $700.

Each year, countless family pets disappear from cars, homes, yards, and neighborhoods across America and many more are taken from their families with false promises of a new life to desperate owners who have taken out "free to you by mail" ads. Many of these dogs and cats are then sold by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensed "B" dealers to research facilities who pay hundreds of dollars each for healthy, gentle dogs and cats. Stolen family pets have been recovered from research institutions across the nation.

Aren't there laws against this?

Yes, but that hasn't stopped the criminals. In 1990, Congress took action to stop the sale of stolen pets to research labs. They passed a law requiring "B" dealers to keep records verifying the legal sources of dogs and cats. But the USDA, with only 70 inspectors responsible for overseeing 13,000 different sites, has said that 52% of "B" dealer's records are incomplete, incorrect, or outright fraudulent. "Every time we develop a new way to look at things, they develop a new way to hide them," said the USDA's Assistant Secretary Michael Dunn. Even researchers agree, "If I knowingly purchase stolen goods, I'm as guilty as the thief," said Dr. Joseph Spinelli of the University of California at San Francisco.

What can I do to protect family pets?

Support our campaign to pass HR 594, The Pet Safety and Protection Act of 1997. The Pet Safety and Protection Act will cut crime and protect pets by cutting off the financial payoff to steal family pets by stopping "B" dealers from selling dogs and cats to research.

continued on back cover

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 us 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 you 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.
Alicia Silverstone and Last Chance for Animals Team Up to Fight Pet Overpopulation.

Taking time out from fighting Gotham City's forces of doom as Batgirl in this Summer's "Batman and Robin", real life superhero Alicia Silverstone is teaming up with Last Chance for Animals to fight the tragedy of pet overpopulation. In a series of attention getting educational public service announcements (PSA's) for TV, radio, movie theaters, and the internet, Silverstone will use her star-power to focus the spotlight on the importance of spaying and neutering companion animals.

Under the banner of "The Alicia Silverstone Campaign to Fix Pet Overpopulation" Last Chance for Animals and Silverstone will unveil the PSA campaign at a premiere press conference and screening in Hollywood in August. The television PSA spot, which will air on TV stations around the nation, was shot live with Silverstone on the "Batman and Robin" set at Warner Bros. Studios and was directed by Batman director Joel Schumacher. The PSA for movie theaters will appear before films in AMC theaters in the form of a slide featuring a candid photo of Silverstone and her beloved pooch Samson. The radio PSA will be distributed to radio stations nationwide and the internet PSA will be accessible to millions worldwide as part of Last Chance for Animals' web-site.

"Alicia is not only a dear friend of Last Chance for Animals, but she is also a compassionate, clear, and compelling spokesperson. When it comes to educating the public on this urgent issue, Last Chance for Animals and Alicia Silverstone are a real dynamic duo," said Executive Director David Meyer.

You're giving animals a fighting chance if you:

- Spay or neuter your pet
- and adopt a dog or cat from your local shelter.
- Save a life!

Cruelty Free or Cruel Trickery?

Buyer Beware!

Some companies may be playing a cruel trick on consumers. We've all seen it: the cute bunny logo on cosmetics and household products that reassures us the product is "cruelty-free." Often, the logo is accompanied by the claim "not tested on animals." Yet many of these so-called "cruelty-free" products contain slaughterhouse by-products.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, companies may use the "cruelty-free" label without restriction because the term does not have a legal definition. Many companies take advantage of this legal foible by labeling products that contain animal by-products as being "cruelty-free." Other companies use the label on their finished products, yet may rely on suppliers or contract laboratories to perform animal testing to substantiate their product's safety.

So how can you separate the genuinely cruelty-free products from those that are mere cruel trickery? Give Last Chance for Animals a call. Unlike some organizations that include products containing animal ingredients in their "cruelty-free" shopping guides, Last Chance for Animals follows a stricter definition of cruelty-free: no animal testing and no animal by-products. Our guide also warns you about companies that do test on animals and gives you their addresses and phone numbers so you can let them know you will not support cruelty with your shopping dollar.

For a free copy of Last Chance for Animals' cruelty-free shopping guide, call us toll-free at 1 (888) 88-ANIMALS.

"many so-called cruelty-free products contain slaughterhouse by-products."
Kelsey Grammer Plays Favorites

A radio morning show in Pittsburgh, Variety 96 (WVTY-FM), recently held an on-air promotion, asking their listeners to ask the biggest celebrity they know to call the morning show. The celebrity judged to be the biggest star during the one-week call-in time period would receive $1,000 for their favorite charity. Variety 96 had calls from celebrities all week, but the celebrity judged to be the biggest star was animal-friendly Kelsey Grammer who named Last Chance for Animals as his favorite charity.

Thanks for helping us help the animals Kelsey! ■

Is there Urine in Your Estrogen Drug?

Most women experiencing menopause wouldn’t think to consume horse urine to alleviate their symptoms. Yet millions unknowingly do when they take Premarin, the most commonly prescribed hormone-replacement drug.

To produce Premarin, thousands of mares are impregnated and confined to small stalls for more than half a year with cups strapped around their bodies for urine collection. Adding to this cruelty are the “by-products” of the drug’s production: the countless foals who are either killed immediately after birth, fattened up and slaughtered as meat for export to Europe and Japan, or, if female, impregnated as young as 24 months to meet the growing demand for Premarin.

Last Chance for Animals, with other groups such as PETA, has been working to expose the cruelty of Premarin production that Wyeth-Ayerst, the Canada-based maker of Premarin, does not want you to know about. Last Chance for Animals has targeted women who might be candidates for Premarin use and the doctors who might prescribe it. We’ve sent hundreds of educational packets to women’s health clinics and specialists, that inform doctors of the painful price thousands of horses pay with each Premarin prescription. We’ve worked with doctors to identify effective alternatives to Premarin that help women with their hormone-replacement needs.

You can add horse-power to our campaign to stop Wyeth-Ayerst’s cruelty. Hit Wyeth-Ayerst where it counts - in the pocketbook. If you are considering hormone replacement therapy, help put an end to this cruel business by asking your doctor for an equally effective plant-derived or synthetic alternative to Premarin.

For a listing of estrogen drug alternatives or an informational packet for your doctor, call Last Chance for Animals toll-free at 1(888) 88-ANIMALS. ■

Saved!

When Last Chance for Animals received a call from a woman near tears saying she had found a “baby rat or something,” our Director of Campaigns and Media Relations, Luke Montgomery went to the rescue. Upon seeing this “rat,” Luke realized it was really a baby rabbit, too young even for it’s eyes to be open and in desperate need of care.

Feeding the baby with an eye-dropper, Luke nursed the rabbit back to health. Over the next few weeks, Skippy, as he came to be called around the Last Chance for Animals office, spent his days on Luke’s desk sleeping, being fed, and watching him work. The whole office took an active interest in the little guy, who grew into being a curious little cotton-tailed bunny —and a little girl bunny at that!

Skippy is now living at a rabbit sanctuary where she spends her time with other rescued wild and domestic rabbits. Everyone at Last Chance for Animals wishes her well. ■

McDonald’s Killing of Cows, Chickens, and Pigs Protested

When McDonald’s tried to make a promotional media event out of the reopening of the nation’s oldest McDonald’s restaurant in Downey California, Last Chance for Animals was there to draw attention to the cruelty that goes into every Big Mac, McNugget and Happy Meal.

Carrying signs and armed with informational material, Last Chance for Animals protesters educated the public and hi-jacked McDonald’s attempted media coverage. Instead of another McDonald’s promotional message, the media and its audience were treated to the truth about the inhumane conditions and cruel deaths that millions of cows, chickens, and pigs suffer to make the “food” on the McDonald’s menu. ■
Wolves Rescued, Sanctuary Built

Abandoned and left to die, 19 wolf and wolf/dog hybrids were wasting away in filthy 5' x 5' concrete floored cages in a Houston area exotic animal boarding facility. The abandoned animals, which were a mix of timber wolves, northern gray wolves, and wolf/dog mixes, were left by their owner to be cared for by the facility. The owner of the animals saw them as a way to make money and profit from the sale of their pups to an ignorant public, unaware of the needs and difficulties of these "exotic" animals. When the owner fled the state of Texas and stopped paying the boarding fee, the facility that was supposed to care for the animals, simply stopped feeding the wolves and left them in their own excrement to languish.

Last Chance for Animals was tipped-off to the plight of these wolves by Houston area animal activists and quickly dispatched an investigator armed with undercover camera equipment to document the neglect and abuse of these innocent creatures. What our investigator found was beyond cruel. The wolves had been transformed from majestic beings to literally just fur, bones and a pair of sad eyes from lack of food and water. Their once muscular, powerful bodies had atrophied from a lack of exercise and now lay still on the cold, wet floors of their tiny cages. Several of the original 19 wolves had already succumbed to these horrors and died. One female, driven by the hideous conditions, had even killed and consumed part of her mate.

Last Chance for Animals worked with the North American Wolf Association (NAWA) to develop strategies on how best to rescue these wolves and place them in a sanctuary where they could live out their lives with dignity and quality. When working to get the wolves out of the facility with local law enforcement proved fruitless, it was decided to pay the balance of the former owner's bill and bail the 13 surviving animals out to freedom.

But now that they were free, where would they go? The hybrids that were mostly domestic dog were adopted out to loving homes who could attend to their special needs. But no wildlife sanctuary in North America could take the other wolves and house and care for them in an environment that would ensure them a quality life. It was then decided that a sanctuary needed to be built especially for these wolves. NAWA took on the task of transforming a five acre stretch of woods not too far outside of Houston into a new home where the wolves could live free and establish a pack order, so necessary for the mental health and happiness of these very social beings. Thanks to NAWA, the new sanctuary is up and running and caring for the wolves. Where the wolves once had only 5' x 5' concrete and chain link cages they now have a 5 acre sanctuary.

If you would like to get involved with or support NAWA's efforts in providing for and maintaining this new sanctuary, give Last Chance for Animals a toll-free call at 1(888) 88-ANIMALS.

Turn Heads!

Just like "Exorcist" head-turner Linda Blair, you too can proudly show off the Last Chance for Animals logo and wear your commitment to giving animals a fighting chance on your sleeve. Our 100% cotton T-shirt with the Last Chance for Animals logo etched in blue is sure to send a message and turn heads.
Sizes: M, L, XL. Price: $19.99 (price includes sales tax and shipping and handling)

To order by Visa or MasterCard call: 1(888) 88-ANIMALS

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☐ M  ☐ L  ☐ XL

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☐ MC ☐ VISA card

card # __________ Exp. Date __________

Signature__________________________

Make checks payable to Last Chance for Animals.

Mail to: Last Chance for Animals
8033 Sunset Blvd. Suite 82
Los Angeles, CA 90046

You're giving animals a fighting chance if you:

Stop eating animals. Go vegetarian!

Call Last Chance for Animals toll-free at 1(888) 88-ANIMALS for free brochure on going veggie.
Gettysburg Deer Hunt Lawsuit Update

Last Chance for Animals' and Gettysburg Pennsylvania resident's fight to keep Gettysburg National Park from killing the Park's resident deer continues. The Park sponsored program to massacre deer using guns, archery, traps, and snares stopped at the end of March. Last Chance for Animals and Gettysburg residents are going to battle with the Park in court to block the planned October 1st re-start of the Park's deer-killing program.

The Park claims that the deer killing policy is justified on the grounds that area deer are disturbing the historical integrity of Gettysburg National Park, but environmental impact statements and other documentation prove this to be false. Arguments to block the killing are scheduled to begin on September 5th allowing time to stop the program from re-starting.

Support Last Chance for Animals and Save Money Too!

Apply today for your Action for Animals MasterCard – the only credit card that earns money for Last Chance for Animals' important work while saving you money at the same time! Transfer the balances from your other credit cards or loans to provide additional funding for Last Chance for Animals.

No Annual Fee if you transfer a balance.

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Running around the web? Visit Last Chance for Animals on the web at www.lcanimal.org
Protecting Your Best Friend
...after you are gone
By Craig R. Ploess

A dilemma faced by many pet owners is, that upon their death their beloved companion animals may have no home and no one to care for them.

Many consider their pets to be loving members of the family who should not end up in a shelter, be forgotten in someone’s backyard, or be euthanized when incapacity or death takes their owners from them. In the eyes of the law, however, pets are viewed as personal property, and their “disposition” upon the death, or, in some cases disability, of the owner is determined in much the same fashion as the owner’s other property. All too often pets are not given consideration in a person’s estate and long term care planning. As such, the pet owner must expressly state in some testamentary document, usually a will, their wishes regarding their animals’ future care.

A will usually controls the distribution of a person’s estate after their death. A person’s estate consists of all property, that did not automatically transfer to another at the death of the individual. Leaving your pets to someone through your will works well enough when the new guardian truly wants the animals, and has the financial resources and space to care for them. Arrangements with the new guardian should always be made, and should include, as a minimum, (1) the consent of the new guardian to undertake the responsibility, (2) a determination that the new guardian can afford food and veterinary care, (3) a determination that the new guardian’s premises provide your pets a safe haven, and (4) that plans be in place for the further placement of your pets should something happen to the guardian.

There are instances where a simple will fails to provide for the safety and well-being of your pets. First, if you become mentally and/or physically incapacitated and must be hospitalized, or placed in a convalescent center, the provisions in your will do not take effect because you are alive. In this instance, you are relying on the kindheartedness of friends, neighbors, or family members to care for your pets. Sometimes this works out, sometimes not. Oftentimes a costly conservatorship proceeding must be initiated in court for the purpose of giving someone the legal authority to make decisions for the incapacitated person. Second, having only a will, or no will at all, can result in delay in placing your pets.

Where a will might fail, a revocable living trust does not. Trusts are one of the primary estate planning tools. A revocable living trust is a legal document whose purpose is to hold and control certain assets for the named beneficiaries. Most living trusts are revocable, which allows the trustor to change, modify, or terminate it during their lifetime. In most revocable living trusts, the trustor appoints themself as the initial trustee, thus insuring full control over the trust during their lifetime. In general, you simply establish a trust solely to provide your pets with sufficient financial resources to provide for their care either during an incapacity, or after your death. A trusted friend, relative, or professional trustee manages the trust and ensures that your pets are placed with responsible guardians and that funds are made available for their care and veterinary needs.

You determine how much of your estate you believe will be necessary to provide a comfortable lifestyle for your pets. You then select the person, called a trustee, that you feel will be most able to manage these funds. You next provide instructions in the trust that the trustee’s primary responsibility is to find a new home and guardian for your pets. You determine the criteria and guidelines that the trustee must follow in selecting the new home. You provide instructions in the trust regarding the guidelines determining how the trust funds are to be distributed, the conditions under which the trust would end, and the distribution of any balance of funds after your pets have died.

The person, or persons acting together, that you select to be the trustee(s) control all trust activities. The guardian does not control the trust, but works together with the trustee - the guardian provides the care for your pets, while the trustee provides whatever funds are required to insure your pets’ well being. The provisions of a revocable living trust can always be changed as long as the person who established it is still living and mentally competent.

Our animals look to us to love them and keep them healthy and safe.
That responsibility does not, and should not end because our lives do. When a pet owner cannot think of anyone who can serve as trustee and/or

continued overleaf

A Legacy of Compassion

Having Last Chance for Animals remembered in your will ensures that your spirit of compassion towards animals will continue on after your death. Work with an attorney to develop language that reflects your wishes and insures that you will leave behind a legacy that gives animals a fighting chance.

For people preparing wills themselves, we suggest the following wording: “I give and bequeath to Last Chance for Animals, a non-profit organization exempt under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) 3, located in Los Angeles, California, the sum of $____, and/or (items to be bequeathed),”

For an informational packet on planned giving, give Last Chance for Animals a toll-free call at 1(888) 88-ANIMALS.
Stolen Pets in Research: Michelle and Sasha’s story

When Michelle Zelman received a call from Last Chance for Animals telling her they had rescued her dog from a research facility, she was shocked. Two weeks earlier, she had given her dog, Sasha, to a man answering her “free to a good home” ad in the local newspaper.

“He seemed like a nice guy,” says Michelle. “He told me he was a Marine and that he was going away, so he wanted a dog for his girlfriend.”

He lied. The man, who gave Michelle a bogus phone number and address, sold Sasha to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

The man who stole Sasha, turned out to be Ralph Jacobsen, a heartless criminal that was a part of a ring of pet thieves that included two USDA-licensed class “B” animal dealers. Thanks to our undercover investigative work, Jacobsen was convicted of conspiracy to commit fraud and sentenced to prison.

Speaking to the media at a Last Chance for Animals press conference, Michelle said, “Every time I see a ‘lost dog’ poster my heart sinks as I wonder what really happened. Was that dog sold to a lab like Sasha was? I truly hope Congress cares about this issue and passes the Pet Safety and Protection Act. Action is needed to prevent anyone else from experiencing the fear and heartbreak I know on a personal level.”

Rescued Bear Cub Released

In January, an orphaned bear cub was found in a remote location in the California’s Eastern Sierra Mountains. The cub’s mother had apparently been killed by a hunter. The little black bear cub, who would later be named “Sierra” by her rescuers, was undernourished and in danger of dying.

Last Chance for Animals and a coalition of other groups including the Animal Protection Institute, the ASPCA, and the Progressive Animal Welfare Society were alerted to Sierra’s plight and banded together to help this orphan in need. Sierra was taken to the Howl Wildlife Center in Washington state to be rehabilitated and prepared for release when she grew older and strong enough to take care of herself in the wild.

In early May, it was decided that the now over 100 pound Sierra was ready to go home. On May 11th, Sierra was released back into the wild of the Eastern Sierras near where she was found. Wearing a cloth radio collar to monitor her progress, Sierra happily ran into the mountains, taking in the sights and smells of her home and freedom.