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And Much More!

WINTER 1998



We Increase Our Fight Against Pet Theft

LCA OFFERS AN UNPRECEDENTED \$10,000 REWARD TO BREAK-UP PET THEFT RINGS

On February 14, Last Chance for Animals launches a new weapon against pet theft. To enhance our investigative efforts, LCA is offering up to \$10,000 in reward money—a gift from a donor—for information leading to the felony convictions of people who steal, sell, or buy cats and dogs for research. We know the thieves are only interested in money, and we're using their very greed to hurt them. Dealers who sell stolen pets and the researchers who knowingly purchase stolen pets won't know who they can trust. Their colleagues, their neighbors, or even their own employees may be the ones who turn them in for reward money. As always, LCA will be there to investigate, gather evidence, and work with authorities to send people to prison for their unethical crimes against animals and families.

In addition to the new Pet Theft Reward, LCA continues to push hard in Congress with the Pet Safety and Protection Act. See page 3 for details.

President's Message



Every time I write some thoughts to you, I describe LCA's efforts to save animals. Every time I describe our work, I tell you with certainty that we're doing everything we can to help them. Yet every time I write to you, 1 look back to my past messages and am so thrilled to see LCA continually expanding our efforts to protect more and more

animals. We're growing because of your support, and once again I'm writing to you to describe all that we're doing for the animals, which you'll read about throughout this newsletter.

Continuing our focus on Pet Theft, LCA is launching a hard attack against the evil people who buy or sell dogs and cats stolen from loving homes. In a move no other organization has taken against pet thieves, LCA has stepped up our methods. After receiving this generous donation and request from a supporter, we are now offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information that leads to the felony convictions of people who steal, sell, or buy stolen pets. This includes bunchers, B Dealers, and even researchers who knowingly purchase stolen animals.

Believe me, I know it takes many donations to add up to \$10,000, but I also know it takes tons of money to pursue and develop leads all over the country to try to stop pet theft. With this Pet Theft Reward program in place, we know we'll establish solid inside connections with the greedy people in pet theft rings, and we'll bust these rings wide open. To put a B Dealer or researcher in prison for stealing pets is well worth a few thousand dollars because each conviction could prevent thousands of stolen pets. Also written in our reward program, we know we won't pay any reward if there is not a felony conviction.

I know these B Dealers who steal pets. They're cowards. When they realize their heads are worth up to \$10,000, these thieves won't know who to trust. Some of them may stop stealing pets just out of fear of going to prison, and if they stop stealing pets, just the threat of our reward is well worth it.

This Pet Theft Reward program gives LCA a powerful new tool to help catch people who would take your cat or dog if they had the chance, and I know you'll agree with me that it's time once and for all to round up all these thieves one by one. We won't stop until pet theft is all but eliminated.

Thank you for making our efforts possible, and thank you most for caring about our little friends.

For the animals,

Chris DeRose

Chris DeRose



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.

You can find Last Chance for Animals online by visiting our web site at this address:

www.LCAnimal.org

Come by regularly and keep abreast of the things you can do to help animals worldwide.

Congress Working on Bill to Abolish Class B Dealers

Last year, Representative Charles Canady (R-FL) introduced into Congress proposal HR 594, the **Pet Safety and Protection Act** of 1997. This bill would amend the Animal Welfare Act to restrict the use of dogs and cats in research to purpose-bred—not random-source—animals. HR 594 is supported by a large coalition of animal protection organizations, including Last Chance for Animals. Representative Canady stated, "I have simply attempted to provide a solution dealers, who Dunn reports are notorious for falsifying records. Dunn declared that "recordkeeping inaccuracies severely preclude complete tracebacks of animals and consume a large share of our inspection resources." In addition, numerous Class B dealers have been investigated for improper treatment, including using gunshot as an euthanasia method and

Michael Dunn, the USDA Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, reports that the Class B system is nothing but a "headache" for the USDA.

to the problem of stolen dogs and cats ending up in laboratory experiments as a result of the misdeeds of unscrupulous Class B random-source animal dealers."

Support has been strong, even from the USDA, the government agency that oversees the B dealer system. Michael Dunn, the USDA Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory programs, reports that the Class B system is nothing but a "headache" for the USDA. His statistics showed that 25 percent of dogs and cats used in research came from Class B dealers, which typically keep their animals in horrendous conditions.

The issue focuses on the Class B

feeding raw human garbage. No animal deserves to be treated like this.

Opponents to the legislation include the American Medical Association, the National Association for Biomedical Research, and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), some of the biggest groups of vivisectors and researchers. FASEB states, "The bill would serve to eliminate Class B dealers...the net result would be to make it difficult or impossible to continue certain kinds of medical research and education that rely upon non-purpose-bred animals."



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 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.



Their objection is best answered by Dr. Robert Whitney, former director of the Office of Animal Care and Use at the National Institute of Health, who testified: "I have been involved in research for 25 years... This experience has led me to believe that the use [of Class B animals] portends many more problems than the benefits that might be derived. This bill is a moderate, sensible approach which will help to allay our public benefactors' concerns about research animal procurement and care."

You're giving animals a fighting chance when you: write Congress

> You can contact your local League of Women Voters to find out who your federal legislators are.

Standing Up for Animals: Through Rain, Sleet, and Snow

One activist challenges a large pet store

In December, LCA member Peter Cannata mounted his own campaign against Petland in Cheyenne, Wyoming. His companion of 16 years was a macaw parrot named Corky. Corky ate dinner with Peter's family every night, travelled with them, and liked Classic Rock and belly rubs. So



when Peter brought Corky to Petland for a routine groom and clipping, he wasn't expecting it to be Corky's last full day alive. Within 24 hours after leaving Petland, Corky had died in a pool of blood from his mouth. Corky's life expectancy was up to 75 years.

Immediately after he found Corky's body, Peter contacted Petland, and he said all he got from them was, "The bird looked fine when it left." No apology, no sympathy.

Then Peter called LCA, wanting to warn people that he thinks Petland is unqualified to groom animals. Peter said he wanted to protest. We told him if he wanted to do it, we'd get the media there.

Despite that he stood in negative 20 degree temperatures in a foot of snow, despite that he was asked to leave by police, for hours on end Peter stood his ground with his sign describing how he feels the store killed his friend, and Petland wouldn't even apologize. Peter said the response was tremendous from the public, and he said LCA came through for him—our press releases got two television stations, a radio station, and the local newspaper there.

One lone man, shivering from the cold, got his message across loud and clear. As a result of his action, he also found many other people who were upset with Petland, and he has since filed a lawsuit against the company.

Every effort for animal protection can start with just one person.

You're TH giving T animals a fighting every tra chance ages when you: resc adopt not buy



THREATENED BIRDS

The trade of wild birds kills countless tropical animals every year during capture and transportation. LCA encourages people to seek out parrot rescue agencies if they would like to adopt a parrot.

CHRIS DEROSE HONORED WITH INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD

Founder and president of Last Chance for Animals, Chris DeRose, was honored with the Peace Abbey Courage of Conscience Award, given



by a coalition of groups including Harvard Divinity School, Wellesley College Chaplaincy, and the UN University for Peace. The award honors individuals and organizations whose commitment to the causes of peace, social justice, non-violence and love has served to bring about life-affirming social change and a reverence for life.

The Peace Abbey, in its press release announcing the Courage of Conscience Awards, noted, "Awards are many things to many people, but at heart they constitute a testimony to the hopes, the dreams, and the actions that

lie at the center of an individual's commitment to a shared vision. Recipients of awards represent the means by which the public is able to personally relate to a given cause."

Other Peace Abbey award recipients included Mother Teresa, The XIV Dalai Lama, Mahatma Ghandi, Rosa Parks, and Nelson Mandela. Chris was honored for his dedication to animal protection and achievement through non-violent tactics.



Executive Director Eric Mindel; front row: LCA board member June Averseng, Liz Wilson, Hans and Coby Siegenhaler.

Back left: LCA's

LCA'S ACTIVIST AWARDS

Congratulations to three people who were recognized with awards by LCA. LCA Volunteer Liz Wilson received a special Award of Recognition for her years of dedication both in the office and at events. Activists Coby & Hans Siegenhaler received Certificates of Appreciation for their countless years of tireless activism on behalf of animals.

LCA Casts a Vote for Celebrities!

Last fall, LCA Executive Director Eric Mindel was invited by The Ark Trust to serve on the 14-person Awards Committee of the prestigious Genesis Awards. These awards, shown on the Discovery Channel in March, give recognition to entertainment people who advance the cause of animal rights through their work.

The Genesis Awards Ceremony is a

black-tie affair and sees countless celebrities in attendance.

Eric comments, "It's an honor and a thrill to be a tiny part of this ceremony which builds a stronger bridge between the animal movement and the television."

For more information about the Genesis Awards, contact The Ark Trust at (818) 501-2275.



The assumption that animals are without rights, and the illusion that our treatment of them has no moral significance, is a positively outrageous example of Western crudity and barbarity. Universal compassion is the only guarantee of morality.

Arthur Schopenhauer 1788-1860 On the Basis of Morality

Protecting a Treasured Part of Your Family

Millions of pets are lost, stolen, or missing annually from homes across America. The thought of the loss of an animal who has become a part of the family is troubling. Unfortunately, onethird of all families who own pets will discover their animal missing. Even worse, only 10% of these animals are ever found.

LCA offers some simple solutions for preventing the loss of a pet. The loss of a beloved family pet is a heartbreaking experience. It is critical to take preventive steps, but it also just as important to be prepared to recover your pet. Our pets depend on us to keep them safe and secure.

By following simple guidelines, you can enjoy peace of mind in knowing your dog or cat is well protected.

- Keep your animals indoors, especially when you are not at home, but be sure to check on them frequently.
- Properly identify your pet with a tattoo or microchip. Have it registered with a national pet recovery service.
- Always keep a collar with an ID tag on your pet.
- Be aware of strangers in the neighborhood. Report anything suspicious to the police and the Animal Regulation Department.
- Keep your dog on a leash when walking it.
- Spay and neuter your pet, as fixed animals are less likely to wander from home.
- Keep a recent photograph and written description of your pet.
- Make neighbors and friends aware of the problem of pet theft.
- Padlock your gate.
- Always know where your cat or dog is.



He is very important, a dog is; he never makes it his business to inquire whether you are in the right or the wrong, never asks whether you are rich or poor, silly or wise, sinner or saint. You are his pal. That is enough for him.

> —Jerome K. Jerome, 1859-1927 The Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow



What To Do if You've Lost a Pet

- Determine exactly when the pet was taken by talking to friends, family, and witnesses. Make detailed records.
- Check around your neighborhood to see if there has been other missing pets.
- Multiple missing dogs are rarely coincidental.
- If you have a possible lead, involve the local police and an animal rights group.
- Contact the USDA to learn of B dealers in your area.
- Be persistent in your search. Enlist support and exhaust all options.
- Find out what is going on in your community. What animal groups and shelters are actively educating the public?
- Look in the "lost and found" section of your local newspaper.

Pet Theft Awareness Day 1998

LCA's annual Pet Theft Awareness Day is February 14, 1998. This event is held to memorialize the millions of missing family pets as well as those animals stolen for use in medical research.

Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- 1) tabling and leafletting at a pet store to educate dog owners
- 2) staging a rally at a USDA office or legislator's office
- holding a candlelight vigil to remember pets lost and stolen

Public pressure and awareness does make a difference. In 1990, a Pet Theft Amendment was added to the Animal Welfare Act, requiring all Class B dealers to document the source of their animals. While the system itself is questionable, the numbers speak for themselves. Before the Amendment took effect, thefts for research accounted for 85% of stolen animals whose fate was known.

In 1998, Last Chance for Animals will embark on a campaign to ensure the passage of HR 594, the Pet Safety and Protection Act (see page 3) as well as to further lower the theft statistics. This multi-faceted campaign will encompass both education and prevention while working to promote HR 594.

If you or your organization is interested in knowing more about pet theft, contact the LCA office in Los Angeles.



Cats seem to go on the principle that it never does any harm to ask for what you want.

> -Joseph Wood Krutch 1893-1970

A ranch-raised mink about to be killed.

TV's Hard Copy and LCA expose animal cruelty together

Hard Copy, a national news magazine television program with 15 million viewers, recently covered two pressing issues in stories coordinated by LCA.

First, LCA arranged a meeting between *Hard Copy* and people who broke into Sea World to spray-paint messages against the captivity of marine mammals. In addition to the covert interview, LCA's Chris DeRose commented on the cruelty of using marine mammals in entertainment.

Just a couple of weeks later, LCA and *Hard Copy* again exposed animal cruelty, this time targeting the fur industry. Chris



DeRose convinced Hard Copy to show

the American public the graphic reality of how mink are cruelly killed in order to make fur coats, and this news piece dealt a hard blow to the fur industry. Both *Hard Copy* and LCA were swamped with response.

These important news stories have been nominated to receive a Genesis Award in 1998, and LCA is grateful to all involved with *Hard Copy* who care about animals.



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

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Animal Victory in England



Activists Mark Fur-Free Friday in Beverly Hills

Across the nation on November 28, animal rights activists joined together to protest the barbaric and cruel fur industry. Fur-Free Friday has become an annual event in dozens of cities, including Beverly Hills, where the event is coordinated by Last Chance for Animals. The protests drew more than one hundred activists from across Southern California to protest against the deaths of 40 million animals killed for their fur every year.

Speakers related the truth about fur: the agonizing steeljaw leghold trap, which indiscriminately captures both target animals and "trash animals," such as dogs and cats; the barbaric methods of anal electrocution that cause the animals to scream in pain; the sickening sounds of neckbreaking on mink farms; and the brutality of unnaturally caging millions of animals a year in filthy, cramped guarters.

The LCA march was accompanied by a bagpipist who provided memorial music as the protest moved into Beverly Hills. The goal of the march was to educate consumers about the torturous fur trade on what has traditionally been the biggest shopping day of the year, the day after Thanksgiving. The annual traditions of Fur-Free Friday as well as year-long protests and demonstrations staged by animal rights groups across the country have made a difference. Fur sales dropped in the past ten years, despite claims to the contrary made by fur advocates. 1996 sales figures were about half of what they were in 1985.

Animal rights activists in Great Britain won important victories on two fronts during the past several weeks. The changes will make Britain a kinder, gentler nation for its animals.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), along with the League Against Cruel Sports and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, are celebrating the passage of a bill in the House of Commons which outlaws fox hunting. Even British Prime Minister Tony Blair voiced his support, saying, "I believe that a ban against fox hunting can be done without the massive destruction of the countryside that people are saying."

Opponents of the bill said the ban would cripple their livelihood and way of life, but supporters disagree. IFAW states that foxhunting is "an act of barbarism" that is not "an act of modern-day living."

In addition, the steps are in place for a full ban on animal cosmetic testing in Britain, which will take effect on January 1, 1998. The government is fully supporting the development, validation, and legal acceptance of alternative methods to animal experiments in the field of cos-

metic products.

The British can deservedly celebrate a victory for the animals. Their actions provide encouragement for all animal advocates worldwide.

In addition, such celebrities as Pamela Lee, Alicia Silverstone, and Candace Cameron-Bure continue to join the call of millions of sympathetic individuals. The only fashion is compassion!

Following up its Fur-Free Friday activities, LCA pushed hard and coordinated a story on *Hard Copy*, a national news magazine TV show (see previous page), which aired in December. This story showed the cruel side of fur fashion, and the piece was likely the hardest anti-fur news story ever aired nationally.

LCA activists protest fur in Beverly Hills.



Saving Farm Animals

A number of organizations rescue animals abandoned by factory farming industries, and

they always need caring homes for these animals. If you have the room, heart, and financial ability to care for a farm animal, please contact any one of these organizations. Two examples are Best Friends Sanctuary (which rescues many kinds of

animals and reachable by phone 801-644-2001) and Farm Sanctuary (607-583-2225). Farm Sanctuary reports a tremendous need for new homes for sheep.

You're giving animals a fighting chance if you: cut down on eggs

Most eggs come from factories containing tens of thousands of chickens crammed into tiny wire cages. After being painfully debeaked, these hens live in "battery cages" for about a year, lose most of their feathers, are pushed to biological limits. and then, when their egg production begins to fall, they are slaughtered for low-grade meat.

The Legality of Steel-Jaw **Leghold Traps**

The steel-jaw leghold trap, the barbaric device responsible for catching and torturing millions of animals every year, played a prominent role in the political landscape during the past year. In California, volunteers have been working statewide to place a initiative on the 1998 ballot which would outlaw the use of the leghold trap for the purpose of recreation and fur in California. In addition, the initiative would also outlaw Compound 1080 and sodium cvanide to kill predatory animals. Contact Pro-Paw, (310) 207-7706, for more information. In addition, the Clinton Administration pressured the European Union to avert its ban scheduled on fur caught with leghold traps, a ban that was to take place December 1. The EU ban would have limited

all American fur into the European continent. The EU announced it has accepted a "compromise" proposal from the U.S. that will allow traps in the U.S. for at least another six years. This proposal will do nothing to help animals. Write to the International Trade Commission at 500 E. St. SW. Washington, DC 20436, and express your opinion regard-

Leghold traps capture animalswild and domesticby one or more legs in deadly grips that can last for days or weeks.

ing the actions of the federal government concerning leghold traps.

A Correction

In our previous newsletter, on page 8, LCA made reference to a fact sheet about pet theft which was printed on the letterhead of the Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR). FBR contacted LCA, notifying us that the content of this fact sheet did not originate with them, and they requested a correction. In their contact with LCA, FBR maintained that its own literature states "...pet theft for research purposes is virtually nonexistent ... " LCA disagrees with FBR's position, but we have no intent to misrepresent another organization in order to expose the truth.

Thank You!

To the anonymous year-end donor who contributed a stock portfolio worth \$10,000. Your generosity is appreciated!

Our Wish List

Two pentium 75 (or higher) IBM PC compatible computers; also: postage meter machine equipped with integrated scale; and a small Hi8 video camera to expand our investigations.

BOOKS & VIDEOS

IN YOUR FACE by Chris DeBose. 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 artested eleven times but also thrown in jail four times, and about the sachifices and danger he faced in his effort to expose the truth about the injustice 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. Hardback \$21 (\$100+ donation will get a free book by request, personally signed to the donor by Ghris). #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 putrition. A must-read for all people who want to learn about veganism. Softback \$14.95. #LCA-2.

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION: A HARVEST OF SHAME by Dr. Moneim A. Fadali. In this softcover book, Dr. Fadali explains in comprehensible language why animal experimentation is bad science. A revolutionary resource for animal advecates. Forewords are written by Neal Barnard, M.D., and Petro Croce, M.D. Other endorsements include physicians and researchers around the world. Dr. Fadali is a practicing vascular and cardiothoracic surgeon. 234 pages. \$14.95. #LCA-3.

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.

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.

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Los Angeles, CA 90046 8033 Sunset Blvd., #35 FAST CHANCE LAST CHANCE





LCA works to Spay!

Last Chance for Animals is part of a task force in Los Angeles, examining the pet overpopulation issue. Numerous animal organizations have come together to form this group to brainstorm and develop a solution to the problem, instead of the traditional model of perpetually treating a symptom of the problem. This task force is designing a spay/neuter ordinance for the City of Los Angeles, yet it's an ordinance which may serve as a model for cities across the country.

In Los Angeles County alone, more than 200,000 cats and dogs are destroyed every year in shelters. Across the country, this figure is estimated to be 10 to 12 million cats and dogs. Local ordinances making it more difficult and/or costly to own an intact cat or dog is a tremendous solution to addressing the overwhelming birth surplus of cats and dogs.

If you've received unsolicited mail from an animal group in Santa Monica or Ventura, please notify the LCA office.



Last Chance for Animals is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending animal exploitation everywhere.

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