Los Angeles City Council Passes Groundbreaking Spay/Neuter Legislation

As part of the 12 member Coalition to End Pet Overpopulation, Last Chance for Animals (LCA) helped pass groundbreaking legislation to implement the nation’s strongest spay/neuter ordinance.

Beginning in September, 2000 the new ordinance will increase the current licensing fee for unaltered dogs from $30 per year to $100 per year. The fee for spayed/neutered dogs will remain at $10 per year. Dog or cat breeders’ licenses will increase from $50 to $100 per year, and allow for only one litter per year. All outside cats must now be fixed.

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President’s Message

Supporting Last Chance for Animals (LCA) shows that you care about the well being of our animal friends. To our loyal supporters, thank you. If you are an LCA friend that we haven’t heard from in a while, I want to encourage you to renew your support. For those new to LCA, please take this opportunity to learn about us and consider adding your voice to our community.

This issue of Fighting Chance will bring you up to date with some of our latest campaigns. LCA continues to be at the forefront of the animal rights movement, with innovative campaigns and investigations. As you’ll see, our work to end pound seizure, fur, bullfighting, animal experimentation and pet theft is keeping us quite busy.

The following pages will also introduce you a variety of committed animal activists, of all ages and from all walks of life. Fighting for change and educating others, our features on actor Christian Bale, activist Chris Parrett and LCA supporter Mavis Frye showcase how one person can make a difference.

We’ve had many major precedent setting victories on behalf of the animals, but we still need your help! Because of generous donations from friends like you, LCA is able to push forward with new strategies to attack animal exploitation and cruelty issues. Additional support from old and new friends means greater victories for animals.

You can be sure that most of your donation goes directly to help animals and educate the public about animal suffering. Nearly 80% of donated funds go directly to LCA’s programs fighting cruelty and exploitation. Please join us in the fight!

Feel free to contact us with any questions about donations, campaigns, or any animal issue for which you feel we might be of help. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

For the animals,

Chris DeRose
President

P.S. - I’ll be speaking about “Compassion in Action” at an Animal Rights Seminar on October 14, 2000 in Kansas City, Missouri. If you are interested in attending, please contact Forest Cook at 800-334-6826 or via email at: forestcook@aol.com

LCA STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Last Chance for Animals (LCA) recognizes all living beings as possessing intrinsic value, and as such they are entitled to certain basic rights. LCA believes that non-human animals are sentient individuals and should not be subjected to exploitation by humans. LCA does not accept a difference in species as justification for wanton exploitation or oppression for any purpose. LCA opposes the use of animals for food, entertainment, clothing, and scientific curiosity. In addition, LCA recognizes the use of non-human animals in experimentation designed to cure human disease as both immoral and of questionable scientific validity. LCA advocates conscious and informed lifestyle decisions and is committed to disseminating truthful information about societal animal abuse in order to improve the manner which animals are treated in the American culture.
Crazy for Animals: An Interview with American Psycho’s Christian Bale

The Welsh actor took time out of his busy schedule to talk with LCA. Christian has evolved from a precocious child actor in Empire of the Sun to a talented, versatile adult actor. His skills have been showcased in a variety of roles, including Laurie in Little Women, Jesus in the NBC television movie Mary, Mother of Jesus and the controversial Patrick Bateman in American Psycho. Christian can be seen next starring with Samuel L. Jackson in Shaft. He is currently filming his next project Corelli’s Mandolin opposite Nicolas Cage. An animal lover with 2 dogs and 3 cats, Christian has translated his youthful determination into animal activism. For more information about this exciting member of the animal rights community, visit www.christianbale.org.

LCA: How did your companion animals come into your life? Did you seek out strays?

CB: All our animals were rescues. As with most companions, we came across them by accident.

LCA: What animal issues are closest to your heart?

CB: I am ... working with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund to help the near-extinct gorillas of Rwanda.

LCA: What would you most like to see done to end animal suffering?

CB: Thanks to the power of the Internet, I believe education is still the best way to reach people to look for alternatives in food, lab testing, and fashion.

LCA: What action, of your own, aiding animals are you most proud of?

CB: Each one of my pets has a special memory as to how I found them. From a campaign point of view, I am very proud of adopting a baby gorilla named Nahimana through the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and my fans over the Internet.

LCA: What would you do if you saw somebody abusing an animal?

CB: I’d break their bloody neck! Well, I’d stop them quickly enough and report them to authorities.

LCA: You’ve spoken publicly about becoming a vegetarian at an early age because of your feelings for animals. How would you go about teaching your children about compassion towards animals?

CB: I don’t have any children. I suppose if I do, I’d ask them to read Charlotte’s Web and to learn more that animals have feelings as well.

LCA: Considering your personal viewpoints, was it difficult for you to reconcile your role in American Psycho, which includes scenes of violence towards animals?

CB: No. As an actor, I portray a completely different person. There is a great misconception that the public equate the actor with the character.

LCA: What message do you think these scenes send to the viewer and what responsibility does the media have when presenting such images?

CB: Given how the character, Patrick Bateman, is portrayed, I’m absolutely sure that the audience comes away thinking that Bateman is an awful, empty human being. We already have a ratings system in each country to ensure that people of a certain age do not see certain films. The responsibility has to be with each individual and each family to educate themselves about animal rights issues and that actors shouldn’t be confused with characters. Recently, I portrayed Jesus Christ in a telefilm and I don’t recall being asked any questions about the “responsibili-

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VICTORY IN HOUSTON:

LCA is pleased to report that after a 3 year battle with local officials, the Commissioners' Court in Harris County has ruled favorably and has suspended pound seizure. This marks LCA-Houston's first major achievement. The following was written by Chris Parrett, who led the fight.

No Compromise

Like many of you, I'm sure, I joined the fight for animal rights without fully comprehending the battle which lay ahead. My life began to change more and more upon seeing the inherent cruelties bestowed upon non-human animals.

After studying the harsh conditions associated with slaughterhouses, I became vegan and also took a special interest in shelter animals. My real introduction, however, began when I hooked up with the Houston Animal Rights Team, and was introduced to one of the most influential persons I will ever know: Joe Feduccia.

For more than three years, Joe, along with the newly formed Houston LCA had been fighting the local officials to put an end to pound seizure. After learning more and more, I joined the fight. Petitioning, public awareness, phone calls and protests, all played a role. However none of these produced any solid results. Sadly, I came to the conclusion that when operating within a system that tends more toward the almighty dollar, rather than saving lives or hearing its constituents, I had to act in a more direct manner. At that moment, I decided that whatever I would do, I would do so without compromise.

Originally, I had planned to block entrance to the courthouse, in hopes of gaining media exposure. LCA President Chris DeRose advised otherwise: a filibuster. He suggested I simply walk into the courtroom, begin speaking into the microphone, and not stop. Knowing his track record, the victories and successes he has had, I figured his was a more cunning approach. Little did I know that nobody had ever done such a thing at the Commissioners' Court. One minute after my three minute allowance, they turned my microphone off, so I began yelling to be heard. Shortly thereafter, two constables grabbed me, bent my arms, and dragged me from the room. All the while, the cameras rolled and the reporters jotted every utterance of truth. Ultimately, what could have taken several more months to resolve took five minutes in the courtroom.

With continued pressure, I am happy to report that the Commissioners' Court saw things through, and pound seizure has now come to an end here in Harris County.

With this experience behind me, I now devote most of my time to helping animals. I have learned that self-sacrifice is a must in this movement, and am thankful to many who have given me that push needed to defy a system based on exploitation and greed. With Joe Feduccia's recent passing, I know I will never share moments like these with him in the future. However, I am comforted by the fact that Joe's battle was not in vain. He got his wish, and much to my delight, he realized his momentous role before passing. I praise all of you, who, like myself, use civil disobedience for progress and public awareness.

"I submit that an individual who breaks a law - that conscience tells him is unjust and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to rouse the conscience of the community over its injustice - is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law."

-Martin Luther King-
A Special Tribute

Animal Rights Activist Joseph C. Feduccia, a key figure in putting an end to pound seizure in Harris County, Texas, died April 9, 2000. Joseph lived in the Southwest section of Houston, and is survived by daughter Luanna, mother Mary Emily Feduccia, two brothers, and two grandchildren. He lived a simple life, enjoying gardening and the outdoors. But above all, Joseph thrived in his circle of writers, artists, filmmakers and other animal activists. Joseph not only etched his mark on friends and family, but will forever be remembered for all the hard work he put into his fight for animals.

LCA President Chris DeRose remembers Joe as warm, intelligent, and committed. He states: “After opening our chapter of LCA in Houston, I met Joe at the local University where I was lecturing. I was very impressed with the depth of his questions and curiosity got the better of me, so the next evening we met again, and began addressing LCA-Houston’s primary objective: to end pound seizure. Joe worked closely with Chris Parrett, and I funneled information to them both. Joe lived to see his years of hard work come to fruition, and for that I am glad. We all thank you, Joe, and will miss you dearly.

In Loving Memory
Joseph Charles Feduccia, Jr.
October 12, 1941 - April 10, 2000

Christian Bale...
Continued from p. 3

...ty of the media” then. I also portrayed an animal rights activist in ALL THE LITTLE ANIMALS without much media attention. I find it disappointing that media tends to gravitate towards the negative.

LCA: As you know, many people feel that there is a direct correlation between animal abusers and child and spouse abusers (and other types of violence). What are your thoughts on this issue?

CB: During my research for AMERICAN PSYCHO, there did seem to be growing evidence that serial killers started off as animal abusers when they were children. This is clearly the first symptom of a very ill human being.

LCA: What advice can you give young people who want to get involved with animal rights?

CB: Read. Ask questions. Surf the Internet. And ask for different points of view.

LCA: What do you think is the best way to educate people about animal rights?

CB: I am a strong believer in the reach and effectiveness of the Internet. My web site has provided information to people about the issues and organizations I support for the past 7 years.

LCA: Your native England is, in many ways, more progressive regarding animal issues. How can the United States learn from British laws and customs?

CB: The US is too culturally different from England. Perhaps it is the Wild West mentality, but American attitude towards guns, entitlement and “independence” is reflected in its attitude towards animal rights issues.

LCA: Do you support biomedical research, utilizing animal subjects, as valid science?

CB: I’m afraid I don’t know enough about this issue. In general, I do not support animals being used in biomedical research.
Turning Up the Heat: LCA & CAFT push harder to yield Fur-Free Results

To date, Burlington Coat Factory (BCF) continues to engage in animal cruelty with their sale of fur trim. BCF faced a public relations nightmare when it was caught selling dog fur almost two years ago. The retailer claimed ignorance, bought its way out of an embarrassing situation, and remains callous to the fact that all lives, including those of coyotes, rabbits, and foxes, are sacred.

To combat this killing for vanity, LCA and CAFT have staged protests all around the country, and have encouraged consumers to make calls phone and write letters to BCF Headquarters. Our supporters have expressed outrage at the seemingly apathetic mindset of BCF.

Mother’s Day marked a series of demonstrations held in twelve cities around the U.S., where there are locations of the 268-store chain. The local protesters drew a positive response from both motorists and customers. The protests took place without incident. Meanwhile, our campaign website, www.skinnedpuppy.com has seen tens of thousands of hits. Half the people visiting the site have found it by typing “Burlington Coat Factory” into internet search engines. Lastly, LCA and CAFT have just been notified that an anti-fur ad to be placed in the Burlington County Times, the daily newspaper in BCF’s hometown was rejected due to mounting pressure from BCF’s corporate headquarters. This is good news! What it implies is an increased awareness that LCA and CAFT will not stop until the giant retailer removes ALL fur from their racks! Please continue to contact Burlington and let them know that fur is inexcusable, not a necessity, and that you will not patronize their stores while they sell fur.

Who To Contact:
Monroe Milstein, President and CEO
Burlington Coat Factory
1830 Route 130
Burlington, NJ 08016
609/387-7800

Spay/neuter legislation...

Continued from p. 1

Additionally, the Coalition to End Pet Overpopulation has created programs to provide for education and enforcement, along with resources for free and low cost spay/neutering. Two mobile spay/neuter units will be utilized and 250,000 resource directories, in 9 languages, will be distributed. City workers will be sent door to door to inform residents about low-cost animal sterilization programs, and a task force of five new animal-control officers are undergoing training.

Because spay and neuter procedures are readily available for considerably less than $100, the ordinance provides a financial incentive for dog owners to have their pets fixed. Approximately 47,000 dogs and cats, three-fourths of all strays brought to Los Angeles city shelters, were put to death last year. The city’s euthanasia rate is about 8% higher than the national average. Hopefully, this new ordinance will help make the city of Los Angeles a more humane place for domestic animals.
All Fired Up

"All Fired Up", that's how Mavis Frye, of Aitkin, Minnesota described feeling upon reading LCA President Chris DeRose' s book, *In Your Face*. Mavis, now 72, lives with her husband, four dogs, three cats, and two tropical fish tanks. Several months ago, a friend of hers attended an animal rights conference here in Los Angeles, and brought back with her the book fore-mentioned. Mavis, at first, was apprehensive, knowing the injustices that occur on a daily basis, and go virtually undetected. However, she also knew that she would not turn her back. She would be a voice for the voiceless. So began a crusade to educate, inform, and raise awareness of the real atrocities in animal laboratories. "People don't have to be young and prosperous to work for animal rights. There are a lot of things they can do right from home, such as letter writing and phone calls. I am very passionate about helping animals and am very grateful to LCA for all their work". Mavis has taken it upon herself to promote DeRose’s *In Your Face*. She understands that while the subject matter can be both harrowing and troublesome, people have a right to know about these issues. "I thought I knew what vivisection was, but found I didn’t have a clue regarding the unspeakable abuses endured by millions and millions of companion animals". Kudos to you, Mavis, and to all hardworking activists who possess a high standard of compassion and sincere dedication in making our world a gentler and more humane place for all life.

Ron and Mavis Frye at play with Stormee, Spunky and Ebony.

A Class Act

Recently, LCA had the pleasure of addressing a group of students about various animal rights topics. Education has always played a very important role here at LCA and President Chris DeRose was happy to answer questions and chat with this remarkable crowd.

The Los Angeles area high school students, from diverse backgrounds, were united by their high regard for all life. LCA has, and will continue to inform and educate audiences of all ages, ethnicities, and personal beliefs. The animals' future depends on it.
Legislative Alert!

Getting involved politically, we can save millions of animal lives. Following are a few legislative bills that Last Chance for Animals has pushed to be introduced based on our investigations, prosecutions and convictions.

The pet safety and protection act: Two bills have been introduced that would virtually end pet theft for animal testing. Bills HR 453 and S1522, would eliminate authorization in the animal welfare act for Class B dealers, who sell animals to research facilities from "random sources". These animals are usually stolen pets, strays, seized shelter animals, animals purchased from flea markets or obtained through "free to a good home" advertisement.

We realize that these bills will not eliminate the use of all animals for testing. But it will help protect us from greedy government licensed dealers who are responsible for most pets stolen in the U.S.

Please write and let your elected officials know that you support the passage of S1522 and HR 453 and that you want them to co-sponsor these bills.

Another piece of legislation pending would help shut down illegal cockfights. Legislative bills S345 and HR 1275 would ban the transport of birds for fighting over state lines. Currently, cockfighting is banned in 47 states. This is a brutal sport where razor-blade like instruments are attached to roosters' feet. The birds are often pumped full of adrenaline boosting drugs and blood clotting agents. Roosters are put face-to-face and forced to fight, usually to the death.

Even though cockfights are illegal in most states, they still take place. Game fowl breeders, when confronted, claim they are taking their birds to other states to fight them. But the passage of S345 and HR 1275 would deny them that excuse. It would stop people from breeding roosters for cockfighting in every state except Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Mexico.

Please write your senators and congressmen asking them to support S345 and HR 1275.

Please contact your presidential candidate's campaign headquarters, including:

Gore 2000 Inc
2410 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203
phone: 615-340-2000
fax: 615-340-3295
TTY (for the hearing impaired)
615-340-3260

Bush for President
P.O. Box 1902
Austin, TX 78767-1902
phone: 512-637-2000
fax: 512-637-8800

Special thanks to J.P. Goodwin for the information contained in this article.

Please help convince your presidential candidate to promise that if elected, he will issue executive orders banning compound 1080 and steel-jawed leg hold traps on federal lands.

Compound 1080 (sodium floracetal) is one of the most dangerous toxins known to man. Developed by the Nazis in the late 30's, it is a tasteless, odorless poison, which can be absorbed through the stomach, open wounds, skin and lungs. There is no antidote and death occurs within 7 hours.

This poison is particularly harmful to the environment because it kills more than the targeted coyote or fox. Animals that eat the carcass of the dead animal will also be poisoned. This secondary poisoning can affect several scavenging animals.

Compound 1080 was banned by executive order under the Nixon administration. Ronald Reagan rescinded the order and now it is used in several ranching states.

Steel jawed leg hold traps may be in National Wildlife Refuges, on the Bureau of Land Management, as well as other federal areas. These traps crush into the victim animals' paw, causing extensive injury and pain. They are non-selective and will catch whatever it touches. This regularly includes people, dogs and cats.

We must remind our candidates that these traps are still in use, and that they can do something about it.

To find out who your senators are, check www.senate.gov

Please write them at:
Office of Senator (name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

To find out who your congressperson is check www.house.gov

Please write them at:
The Honorable (name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20215
After successfully convincing PepsiCo to remove its signage from hundreds of bullrings in Mexico, SHARK & LCA are moving ahead to the second stage: Corona Beer, who's major shareholder is Anheuser Busch.

Anheuser Busch controls not only the popular beer, but also owns Sea World, Busch Gardens, and Discovery Cove, all designed to serve as safe havens for marine mammals and other exotic sea life. So the question at hand is why a corporation like Anheuser-Busch would proudly exhibit their aquatic attractions and simultaneously sponsor animal cruelty in bullrings.

Please write a respectful and cordial letter to Anheuser Busch urging them to follow Pepsi's example and end their support of bullfighting. Remind them that bullfighting is cruel, and that their participation can be construed as hypocrisy, given their national reputation for supporting marine mammal habitats.

A Special Thanks...

Special thanks to LCA volunteer and Hollywood publicist Cheryl Lynch. Cheryl was integral to our success in getting Howard Stern to play our anti-fur radio ad, detailed in our last newsletter. LCA relies on a network of committed volunteers, activists and supporters to achieve victories on behalf of animals. Kudos to Cheryl and all LCA advocates!
COULSTON UPDATE

LCA's lawsuit against The Coulston Foundation (TCF) continues to move us toward victory against Dr. Fred Coulston. In keeping with LCA's philosophy of seeing our campaigns through to the end, we have vowed to see this 1st amendment lawsuit through the state supreme court of New Mexico. LCA will continue to battle TCF until they close their doors and send the chimps to live out the remainder of their natural lives in a peaceful animal sanctuary.

TCF president and deputy CEO Dr. David Renquist, who will be deposed as part of LCA's lawsuit, resigned on April 19, 2000, after only six months on the job. Dr. Renquist, a veterinarian whose specific task was to clean up the lab's regulatory mess, is the fourth president to leave in 16 months. Renquist's departure is another serious blow to the lab, which is close to bankruptcy due to mounting debts and an ever worsening record of human safety, data integrity and animal welfare violations.

During Renquist's six-month tenure seven chimps have died. Long-time Coulston employee Ronald Couch is now TCF's acting president. Couch was the study director involved in the grossly negligent death of chimpanzees Terrence, Muffin and Holly. These chimpanzees died from the well known side effects of a drug being testing. The USDA has charged TCF with a multitude of animal welfare act violations in conjunction with these deaths.

The Coulston Foundation continues to operate under a management team that has been documented to mislead federal officials and misuse federal funds. Coulston is operating under a federal order that prevents the lab from initiating any studies under authority of the Food and Drug Administration. Since 1993 at least 40 non-human primates have died "unexpectedly" at TCF, many of these death suggest gross negligence and abuse. TCF has also been cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for breeding chimpanzees in direct violation of this order, including chimpanzee triplets which were born at The Coulston Foundation on Saturday, February 19, 2000. LCA promises to continue the fight to shut down TCF. The legal pressure we have placed on TCF will continue, but we can't do it without your support. It will be another milestone in the animal rights movement when LCA successfully sues a large corporation such as TCF, and brings them to their knees.

"What future horrors await the newest prisoners of The Coulston Foundation?"

These baby chimps were born Saturday, February 19, 2000 at The Coulston Foundation, a biomedical research center in Alamogordo, NM. The babies arrived about a month premature. (AP Photo/Coulston Foundation via the Alamogordo Daily News)
Dear Friends of LCA,

Thank you for your interest in, and support of, Last Chance for Animals' work to end cruelty to animals. As the new Development Director for LCA, I would like to introduce myself, and our exciting new membership program. I hope you will join us as an official member of LCA, although, as always, your gift of any amount is most appreciated. Many of you have requested a greater variety of ways to support LCA, and we have responded with an expanded donor program. Please read about the many ways you can help LCA help the animals, and consider the best way for you to become an important part of our efforts.

I am excited to be working with so many wonderful people, engaged in the important work of giving a voice to our animal friends. Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts or questions. I can be reached at 310-271-6096, extension 26, or via email at development@lcanimal.org.

Sincerely,

Alison Meinsner
Development Director

Important Donor Information

You Can Support LCA:

**With an outright gift:** Your gift by check or credit card will provide the ongoing support LCA needs to continue helping animals. You can also donate monthly, directly from your checking or credit card account, with no additional cost to you.

**At work:** Check with your employer regarding matching gifts and workplace contributions. LCA is a member of Independent Charities of America (ICA) and Animal Funds of America (AFA), so individuals participating in a workplace campaign can support LCA by contributing to either or both campaigns.

**With a gift of stock:** Stock can be transferred directly to LCA's account. You will receive a receipt for the current value of the stock, and avoid paying capital gains tax on any profit realized. Call for transfer information.

**With your vehicle:** LCA's Autos for Animals program can accept cars, boats and airplanes! We can accept vehicles from California and western Nevada. We will pick up your car at your location, you will receive a receipt, and you can deduct 100% of its fair market value from your income. Visit the Autos for Animals website at autos4animals.org or call LCA for more information.

**With your property:** LCA can also accept gifts of real estate, art and jewelry. Contact LCA to see how your gift of land could directly benefit animals.

**With a planned gift:** You can make an eternal gift for the animals by naming LCA in your will, or utilizing another form of planned giving. We've teamed up with estate planning specialists to offer a wide variety of options to people who want to support LCA's important work and make the most of available tax advantages.

**With a tribute gift:** Honor or memorialize a friend, relative, or animal companion. A personalized card will be sent informing the recipient that a gift has been made on their behalf. A minimum of $20 must be contributed for a tribute card to be sent. Gift memberships are also available.

**With an in-kind donation:** Call LCA to see how your goods and services can help. New or used items in excellent condition are acceptable. Our current wish list includes:
- Computers
- VCR
- Laser printer
- Typewriter
- Office furniture
- Fax machine
- Color Copier

**With your time:** LCA is looking for committed volunteers. We can accommodate regular and sporadic gifts of time and energy. Contact Sam Destro at 310-271-6096 extension 30, or via email at volunteer@lcanimal.org.

For additional information about all types of donations, contact Alison Meinsner at 310-271-6096, extension 26, or via email at development@lcanimal.org.
Please let us know if you received duplicate mailings from LCA. We use a computerized database for the most efficient and reliable tracking of your history of support with LCA, but human error does occasionally occur. If you receive a duplicate, we'd appreciate you passing it along to a friend.

Freedom, Violet, Maddy and Hershey, four of six cats rescued and loved by LCA supporter Carol Lynn Shuler of Freeland, Michigan.

Please send us your photos of your animal friends to include in our newsletter. Stories of rescues are appreciated but not required. Photographs should be sharply focused. We're sorry, but we cannot return any photos submitted for the newsletter. Unless otherwise stated in writing, submission of photos to LCA constitutes your agreement that we may use them to encourage compassion in people.