

# **COMPASSION CAMPAIGN '92**

**PO Box 30654, Bethesda, MD 20824 • 301/530-1737**



**Dear Member of the Democratic Platform Committee:**

Compassion Campaign '92 is a coalition of national organizations working to prevent animal abuse in farms, stockyards, laboratories, exhibit arenas, and in the wild. These organizations represent the humane concerns of millions of American voters, including pet owners, environmentalists, and animal rights advocates.

**We respectfully request that the following (or similar) plank be introduced in this year's Democratic national platform:**

**"Animals deserve our respect, compassion, and gratitude because they are our neighbors on this planet Earth, because they are capable of feelings, and because we have used them since time immemorial. Accordingly, we commit ourselves to a long-term goal of alleviating and eliminating all animal abuse. Specifically, we will seek more humane conditions for animals in farms, stockyards, and slaughterhouses, reduced use of animals in biomedical testing, and more effective protection of wildlife and their habitats."**

We have enclosed copies of position statements on this issue by candidates Bill Clinton and Jerry Brown as well as our own position statement entitled "The Case For Animals."

Thank you very much for your kind consideration of the most oppressed beings on earth.

Sincerely,

  
**Alex Hershaft, PhD, National Coordinator**





# Bill Clinton FOR PRESIDENT

March 27, 1992

Una Ashcraft  
4786 Constellation Drive  
Charleston, SC 29418

Dear Una:

Thank you for writing to express your concern for the rights of animals. I have always loved and respected animals and abhorred any cruelty toward them.

Please be assured that a Clinton Administration would be extremely sensitive to these issues and concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Clinton

We the People...

Jerry Brown On Animal Rights

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."  
Mahatma Ghandi

Many species of animals around the world are becoming extinct because of human greed and indifference. Presently, in the United States abusive and cruel treatment of animals is out of control. Millions of animals raised for food are confined in small crates for their entire lives; millions are used in scientific experiments which could be replaced by other methods.

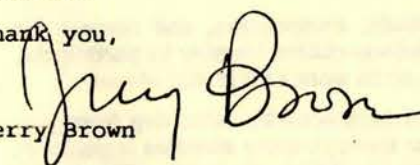
I support legislation that would put an end to the use of narrow wood crates for raising veal calves, "steel-jaw" leghold traps for hunting and the use of animals for cosmetic testing.

We have the power to change our attitudes and actions towards animals. I have always believed that people who care about animals also care deeply about other people.

As Governor of California, I passed numerous animal welfare bills: endangered species received 3.5 million dollars for habitats; the maximum punishment for the sale or purchase of bear meat or parts was increased; the moratorium on trophy hunting of mountain lions was extended.

As President, I will work to ensure better treatment of our animals.

Thank you,

  
Jerry Brown

**Brown for President**

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# THE CASE FOR ANIMALS

Animals have served us as sources of food and clothing, as tools of research, as objects of amusement, as workers and companions, and as crucial elements of our ecosystem since time immemorial. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. Moreover, animals experience most of the same feelings that we do, including love, joy, curiosity, boredom, frustration, sadness, jealousy, anger, fear, and pain. We owe them our compassion. Finally, as fellow inhabitants of this planet Earth, we owe them our respect.

In the last two decades, the climate for the black, the poor, the aged, the disabled, and other oppressed minorities in America has improved considerably. So has our respect for and protection of our natural environment. Yet, our treatment of animals has grown steadily worse.

## THE GRIM RECORD

Each year, over five billion cattle, calves, pigs, sheep, chickens, and turkeys are raised in the U.S. under conditions of severe crowding, mutilation, and deprivation. Veal calves are taken from their mothers one day after birth, chained by the neck in narrow wood crates without bedding or light, and fed a liquid diet deficient in iron and fiber. Laying hens are crammed five to a cage the size of a folded newspaper and forced to stand on a sloping wire floor.

Each year, approximately 80 million monkeys, dogs, cats, rabbits, and other feeling animals are shocked, irradiated, burned, starved, poisoned, deprived, mutilated, and otherwise abused and killed in tests and experiments that are frequently excessive, redundant, inconclusive, unnecessary, or downright frivolous.

Each year, some 15 million dogs and cats are abandoned by their owners and destroyed in the U.S. This needless suffering and destruction could be eliminated by effective public education and animal sterilization programs.

Each year, tens of millions of wild animals are clubbed, shot, harpooned, trapped, and poisoned for food, furs, or "sport." An animal caught in a steel-jaw leghold trap lies in agony for many hours before it is killed by the trapper.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

We need to develop a new ethic of gratitude, compassion, and respect for animals. Every one of us must make a conscious choice whether to participate, actively or silently, in the abuse of animals, or to work to end this abuse.

We can exercise our choice through the marketplace—by refraining from purchasing products involving animal abuse, or through more effective legislation. To obtain such legislation, we must sensitize candidates for public office to our concerns and help elect the candidates that have been so sensitized. The current political campaign provides us with a unique opportunity to do so. Although the cynical view is that animals (unlike human victims of oppression) don't vote, caring and compassionate people do and will, in overwhelming numbers, once they realize the enormity of the hidden abuse that is being perpetrated in their name.

Whatever your means or talents may be, please *do something* to show where you stand. Even one letter to the editor, one call to a radio talk show, or one statement at a public forum will help end the suffering. Remember: *your silence is a message*. For additional information, contact:

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