



SCIL Social Compassion in Legislation

Judie Mancuso
Founder & CEO

An animal advocacy group that develops legislation to support animal rights and protection.

PRESS RELEASE

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ANIMAL ACTIVIST LOUISE LINTON JOINS BOARD OF ANIMAL ADVOCACY GROUP SOCIAL COMPASSION IN LEGISLATION

The actress turned animal advocate lends her support to political nonprofit organization that has extraordinary record for advancing animal protection laws in California and beyond

December 9, 2019 – SACRAMENTO, CA – Louise Linton, the Scotland born actress and philanthropist, who in recent years has turned her attention to animal rights, joined the board of directors for Social Compassion in Legislation (SCIL), a leading political animal advocacy group creating and changing laws to support animal rights, protection, and welfare. In joining Social Compassion in Legislation, Linton is teaming up with most recent high-profile additions to the board of directors, Diane Keaton, Maggie Q, and Margaret Perenchio.

"We are thrilled to welcome Louise to our board," said **Judie Mancuso, Founder and CEO of Social Compassion in Legislation**. "She brings every stakeholder to the table and we need more of that in the animal rights community and in Washington DC, where Louise will be driving SCIL's federal efforts on puppy mill issues and beyond."

Since moving to the United States from Scotland, Linton has supported numerous animal welfare organizations through her activism, fundraising, and financial contributions. Linton's passion for animal welfare and conservation has been a moral imperative since childhood, and in recent years, has become a large and consuming aspect of her life.

Linton, now based in Washington DC, will help lead SCIL's efforts in the nation's Capital. One of her main areas of focus will be on enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, as it pertains to puppy mills and large or exotic animals in roadside zoos.

"As a passionate animal advocate, I have always felt a sense of futility as many animal welfare issues are systemic and hard to treat without legislative change. What appeals to me about Social Compassion in Legislation is that they successfully create change at the legislative level which has a dramatic and lasting impact. Their work targets the source of the problems rather

than focusing only on short term solutions. The work they have done in California has created sweeping change which renews my hope that changes can be made at the Federal level which can reduce animal suffering across the country. I'm extremely pleased to join their ranks and stand with them and support their work in every way I can," said the enthusiastic new board member **Louise Linton**.

Philanthropist, and major supporter, **Dr. Gary Michelson** who introduced Linton to SCIL said upon meeting Louise, "Louise is the real deal. She walked into a municipal animal shelter and left with a dog that had been run over and left to die on the streets. The dog had a leg that was severely crushed and infected, and who would have received no shelter, but rather would have surely been put to death. Of all the dogs in the shelter, this is the one that Louise chose to take into her home and love. That more than won my heart over."

In 2019, she created The Louise Linton Charitable Fund which aims to protect the wellbeing of people and animals both locally and in under-resourced communities around the world. She has also served on the board of Los Angeles animal rescue Mutt Match LA for a decade.

Among the animal welfare organizations Linton has supported are PETA, Farm Sanctuary, The Humane Society of the United States, Start Animal Rescue, Austin Pets Alive, Second Chance Rescue, Dallas Dogs RRR, Mutt Match LA, Ol Jogi, The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Space for Giants, Wild Aid, Born Free, The White Coat Waste Project, Viva Horse Rescue, Tall Tails Rescue, Goats of Anarchy and Ferdinand's Friends Rescue, among others.

Since 2007, Social Compassion in Legislation has sponsored groundbreaking bills to save and protect animals. Past legislative successes have made it illegal to leave an animal in an unattended vehicle in extreme weather and banned puppy mills and other commercially bred cats and rabbits from pet stores. Those are just two lifesaving examples, though.

Three other SCIL sponsored bills go into effect on January 1, 2020; a ban on wild animals in circuses, a ban on fur trapping, and a groundbreaking law which will require all new cosmetics and personal hygiene products in California to be cruelty-free. These bills are being replicated in states across the country. Another bill signed into law in 2019 will go into law in 2022, which adds many species to an existing California law banning the sale of exotic skins. Hippos and caimans, and many species of lizards will be added to a list alongside alligators and crocodiles.

"Our mission is very clear. We must do everything we can, in a strategic, inclusive, smart and bold way, to make the greatest, most meaningful changes in laws and regulations," said Mancuso. "From eliminating puppy mills to calling out industries that torture animals, our relentless fight for protections on behalf of the voiceless animals is only strengthened with Louise on our team. We are excited and grateful to have her on our Board."

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